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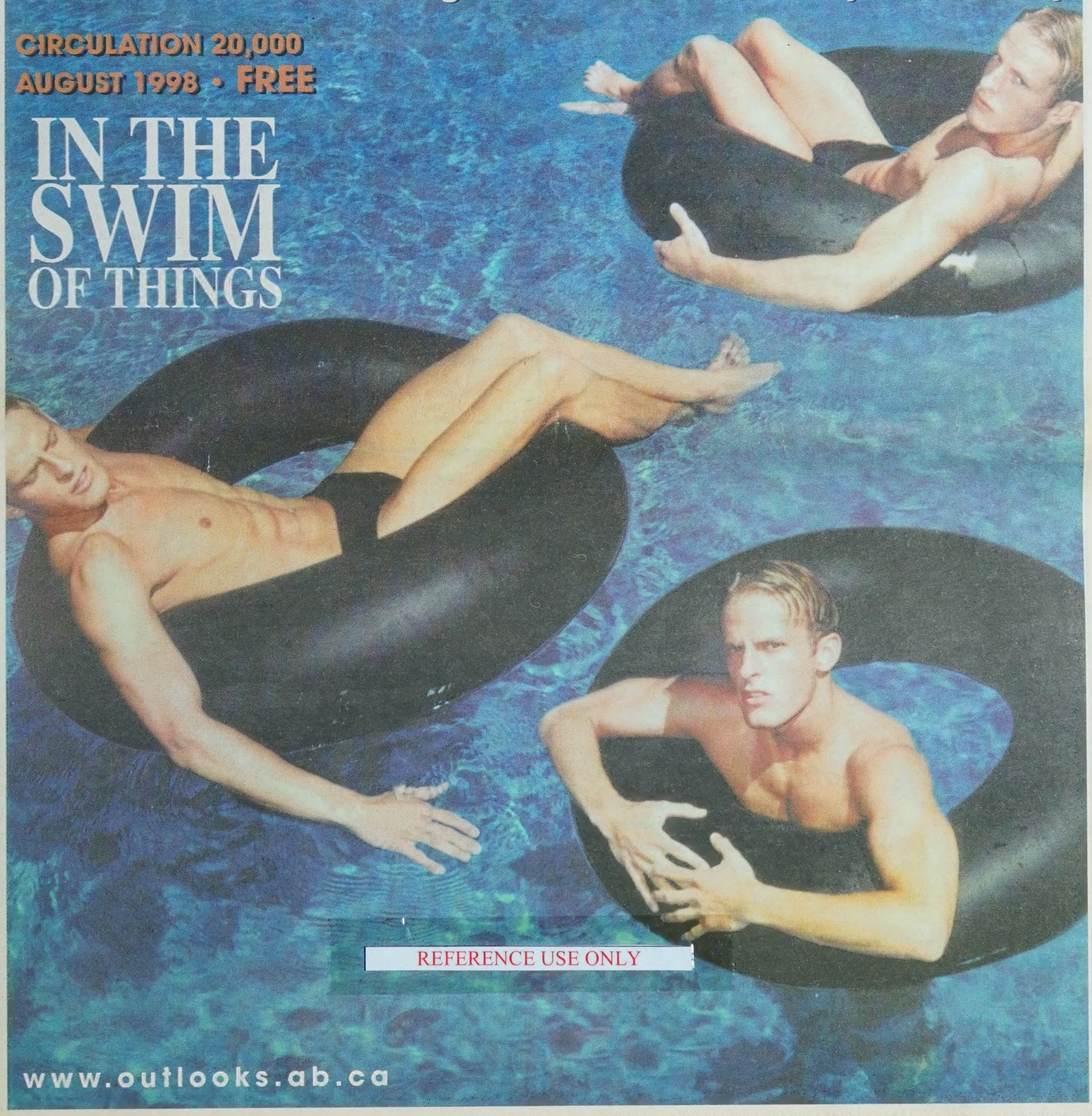

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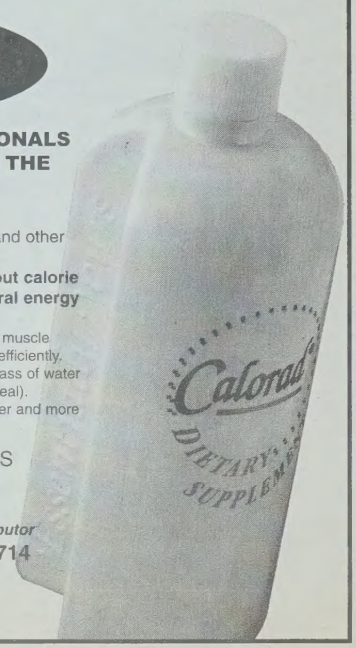

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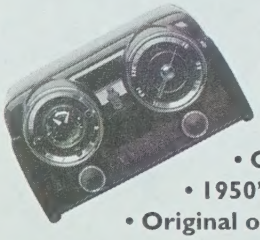

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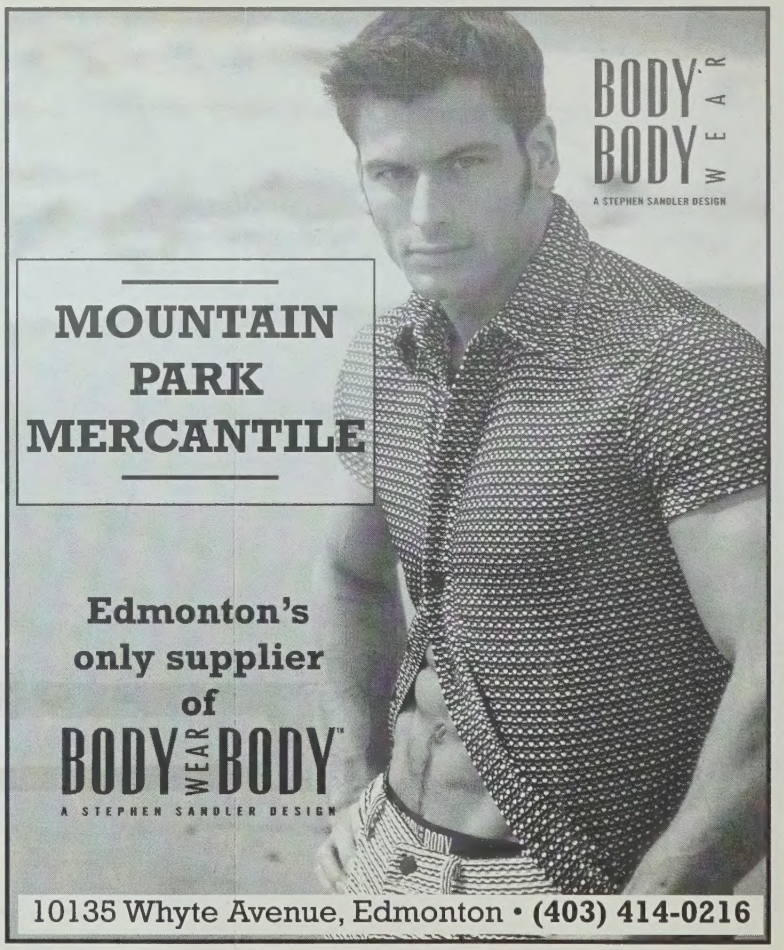

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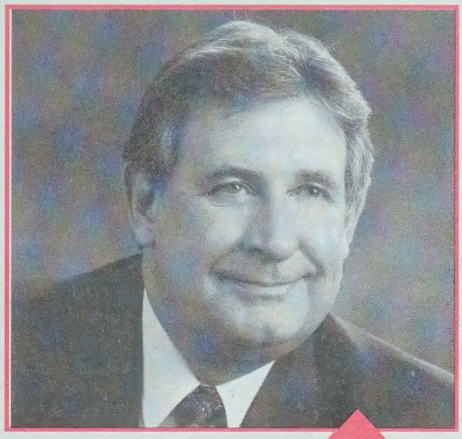

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Politics

Alberta premier Ralph Klein takes time out of his busy schedule to answer *Outlooks'* questions.

Gay Men In Business

Ex-Calgarian Vance Campbell discusses his success with a prairie work ethic in laid-back Lotus Land.

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In Conversation

Premier funny-girl Suzanne Westenhoefer talks the talk during her visit to the ARGRA rodeo.

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Robert E. Murray

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PUBLISHER'S COLUMN

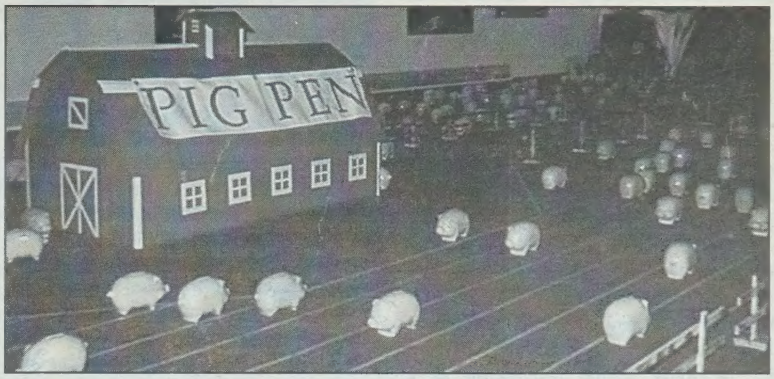
Piggies, pledges, and participation

by Roy Heale

Ah! Finally, those lazy, hazy days of summer we've been waiting for so long have arrived in Alberta. Time for vacations, long summer evenings outdoors with friends and loved ones, the pace of life slowed just a little by the heat of the sun. While you're enjoying watching your garden grow and smelling the roses, there are a couple of important fund-raisers that need some nurturing to make sure they blossom this fall.

In August Small Change... Big Changes will have their launch party at the Capital Bar & Grill on August 17th at 8 pm. This is the time to join a great effort to collect enough small change to dwarf the first four years' collective total of over $300,000 raised. Be sure to be there and purchase your piggy bank for just $10 in support of programs for individuals and their families affected by HIV and AIDS.

Also, this month the pledge forms will become available for the National AIDS Walk to be held across Canada on September 27th. You'll be able to find them in Calgary and Edmonton at gay bars, night clubs, restaurants and other businesses. You may also call 541-WALK in Calgary or 488-5742 in Edmonton for more information. Last year Calgary raised $64,000 and Edmonton raised $78,000 with over 2000 participating in both cities.



During these difficult times of uncertainty as to where government funding is going (or not going) or when the inevitable cutbacks transpire, our own fundraising efforts in support of PWA's are critical. These fundraisers contribute significantly throughout our province in support of our less fortunate friends and associates. Your help is imperative to ensure more money is raised this year than in previous years to meet the increased need for services and support.

So, as you enjoy your swim in the pool, at the lake, or away on vacation, take a little time to plan to involve yourself in a good cause this fall. Happy holidays!

Cured gays?

A catfight's been brewing lately south of the border regarding the extent to which a tiger can change its stripes. The controversy arose when advertisements created by Christian political organizations ran in U.S. newspapers, claiming that homosexuality is a curable ailment that can be controlled through abstinence or marriage. One of the most powerful images in this crusade of propaganda is that of a large group of supposedly "reformed" gays and lesbians claiming "We're standing for the truth that homosexuals can change." Another in the series depicts a woman under a banner reading "Towards hope and healing for homosexuals." Below is the caption: "Anne Paulk, wife, mother, former lesbian."

Amongst those organizations who have assisted in furthering the gay reform cause are the American Family Association, Family First, The Centre For Reclaiming America, and, of course, the Christian Coalition.

Many conservative politicians have been quick to endorse this blatantly anti-gay campaign as they struggle to find divisive issues in a generally contented and economically sound U.S. voting population. In addition to full-page ads run by gay rights groups claiming this "cure" to be a myth and right-wing ploy, liberal and moderate politicians alike have come forward to debunk the notion as a political tool. In the past year, both Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have been very public and outspoken in their support of equal rights for gays.

Should any individuals wish to express their displeasure with this course of action—in a courteous and *painfully* respectful manner—the following groups who support this campaign can be reached at these phone numbers:

Christian Coalition
1-800-325-4746

Concerned Women for America
1-800-458-8797

American Family Association
1-601-844-5036

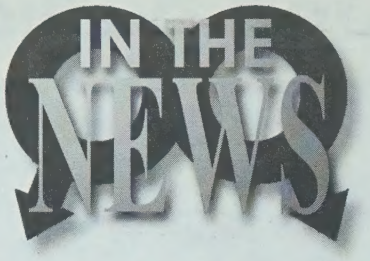
Americans for Truth about Homosexuality
1-202-393-2100

Centre for Reclaiming America
1-877-IN-TRUTH

One of the high points of Stonewall Travel's Stampede Barbeque was a draw for a trip for two anywhere American Airlines flies. Stonewall owner Norm Althouse presents draw winner Doug McDougall with his prize.

Despite glow-inducing temperatures, attendance swelled with some of Calgary's "swellest" at the glam grand opening of Bizou Parisian Brasserie and the French Meadow Artisan Bakery, the latest edition to upper 4th's dining ranks. In a rare moment of tranquility, owners Susan Peguin and manager Peter Troyer took time to pose in front of—if not smell—the flowers during the July 16th festivities.

Just People satisfied



It is with a great sense of satisfaction that Just People Equal Rights Society can now conclude its mission. With the recent Supreme Court ruling in the Delwin Vriend case finally providing equal basic human rights to all citizens of Alberta, regardless of their sexual orientation, the objective of Just People has been fulfilled. The organization will be donating over $500 of their money towards the Delwin Vriend Defence Fund, which is currently in a deficit position for $25,000.

Just People was created in 1993 in response to the Alberta Government's desire to study the Alberta Human Rights Commission's charter. In hope of bringing Alberta in line with most other provinces by including sexual orientation as a protected grounds, Just People brought together concerned citizens from across the province to prepare a submission for the review panel of the Human Rights Commission. Since that time, Just People has continued to work towards reducing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Delwin Vriend's Supreme Court victory was claimed after seven years of legal battles with dozens of lawyers and citizens fighting for equality. In the Supreme Court battle, a number of law firms represented Mr. Vriend as well as thirteen intervening community organizations, often at no charge. To date, over $55,000 has been raised to cover court costs; however, the defense fund is still $25,000 in arrears.

Just People would like to thank all Albertans who previously supported our efforts toward equality and encourages them to contribute to the Defence Fund. If you or your organization is interested in helping defer these costs, please send your donations to: Delwin Vriend Defence Fund, Box 1852, Edmonton, Ab T5J 2P2.

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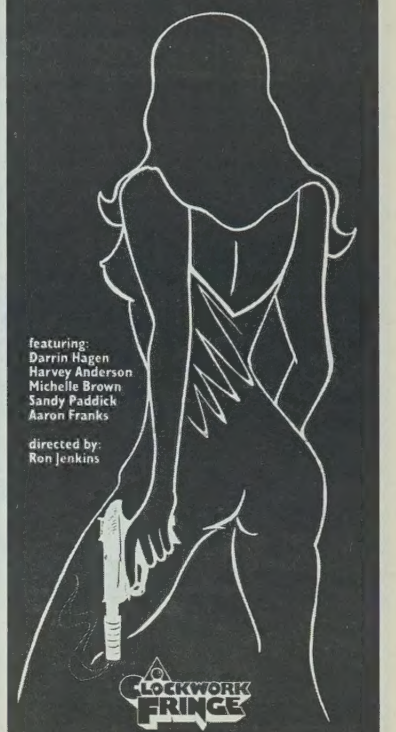

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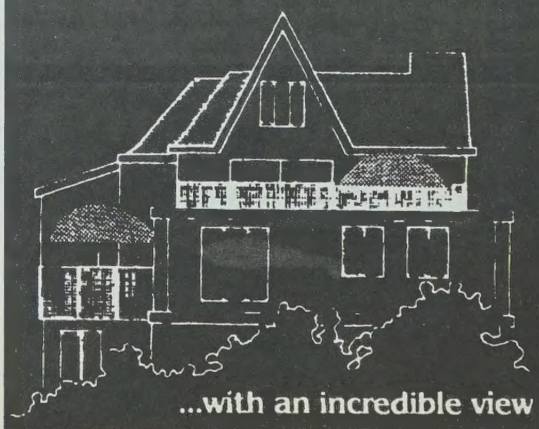

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Klein time: an exclusive Q&A with the premier of Alberta

PREMIER RALPH KLEIN

by Roy Heale

Since *Outlooks'* inception eighteen months ago, we have worked continuously to bring our readers exclusive interviews with community leaders, celebrities, entertainers and politicians in the hopes that these endeavors will bring about a greater understanding of gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Since our first issue, a number of requests have been made to Premier Klein's office for an interview with our provincial chief executive. However, we were told it would have been politically incorrect for the premier to discuss the Delwin Vriend case whilst it was still before the courts. We were always assured that Klein would answer our questions subsequent to the Supreme Court ruling. In this issue, we're pleased to give you Premier Klein's written responses to some, but not all, of our questions. Only in a perfect world do you find answers to all of your questions and in this instance we're grateful for the premier's time and his acknowledgement that the gay media of Alberta is worthy of some attention.

Outlooks: In your political career to date, was the Delwin Vriend case one of the more difficult moments?

Klein: Yes. It was one of the most difficult issues I, and my caucus, have ever had to deal with.

Outlooks: You took a personal stand at great political risk and showed leadership as the Premier on this issue. In hindsight, do you have any regrets?

Klein: No. We did the right thing. It was a tough decision and, as with all tough decisions, there may be a political price to pay. That's reality. I am still convinced our government did the right thing.

Outlooks: With respect to the Delwin Vriend case, why did you take a stand on the use of the notwithstanding clause the day before the caucus meeting?

Klein: My view has always been that we should accept the Supreme Court decision on Vriend, but that we would need a full discussion of the decision in caucus. My stand was also that if caucus wanted to use the notwithstanding clause, we would have to consult with Albertans first through some sort of public consultation mechanism. In fact, if our government ever even considers using the notwithstanding clause for any reason, we will consult with Albertans first.

Outlooks: How did the lobbying by religious and family groups vs. the gay and lesbian community affect your personal stand on this issue?

Klein: My stand did not change as a result of the lobbying. But some of the hateful faxes and phone calls that we received—some of the stuff we received was appalling—reaffirmed for me that accepting the Supreme Court decision was the right thing to do.

Outlooks: What are your personal views as opposed to political views with regard to homosexuality?

Klein: I think it's wrong to deny somebody a job or accommodation because of their sexual orientation. What consenting adults do in private is their concern.

Outlooks: What was the turning point in those six days subsequent to the Supreme court ruling that led to your personal stand?

Klein: I have always been of the personal view that we should accept the Supreme Court ruling on Vriend, whatever that decision was. I did not change that view after the Supreme Court ruling.

Outlooks: What would your personal reaction be if a member of your family or a good friend told you he or she was gay?

Klein: It wouldn't change how I felt about them. In fact, I would appreciate their honesty. What matters most to me is whether or not somebody is a good person. Are they hardworking? Honest? Sincere? Responsible? Are they good and decent human beings? Those are the important things.

Outlooks: How do you feel about the rest of Canada looking upon Alberta as a redneck bastion?

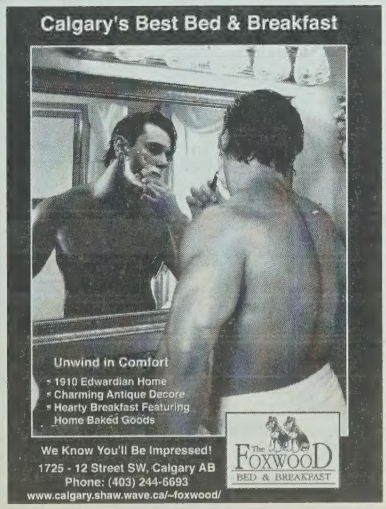
Klein: It depends what you mean by "redneck". If you mean that Albertans are hardworking, common sense, independent and self-reliant people, then I have no problem. But if by "redneck" you mean bigoted or narrow-minded, then I disagree completely. Albertans are among the most generous, kind, tolerant, and compassionate people I know.

Outlooks: Throughout your political career in municipal and provincial politics many gays and lesbians have worked on your election campaigns. Do you feel that you have represented them equally?

Klein: I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the support and help of many, many supporters and volunteers. I have always tried to live up to the expectations of my supporters and to try as hard as I can to represent and carry out the wishes of all Albertans, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Outlooks: In the next provincial elections, why should the gay and lesbian population vote for the Conservative Party candidate?

Klein: Everyone, not just gay and lesbian people, should vote for the candidate that best represents their views. Our party stands for good government and a strong economy. That means balanced budgets, paying down debt, keeping taxes low, looking for more effective and efficient ways of doing things, especially in education and health. And it also means being accountable—letting the people know what we are doing and why. So if you believe in our vision of good government, you should consider voting for a PC candidate.



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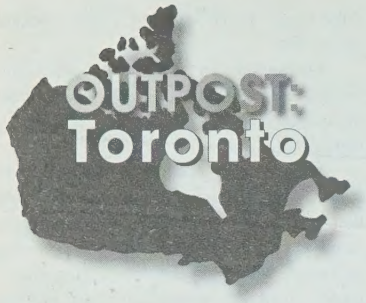
THE CALGARY SUN OUTLOOKS

Trimming the weeds



by John Coulbourn

Over the past decade or so, as middle age settles around me like a paunch, I've become besotted with botany, passionate about plants, geared-up about gardening.

And acquiring a plot of land (albeit about the same size as a postage stamp) has only served to deepen my obsession.

I've learned a thing or two in the process, too, not the least of which is the fact that, regardless of the level of commitment and vigilance, there's always going to be a weed or two that escapes notice until suddenly it becomes the focal point of the entire garden.

So it is in life.

After a summer spent savoring a bumper crop of what seemed like major gay victories—from Delwin Vriend through to the federal government's decision not to appeal the recent ruling on same-sex pension benefits—I turn on my TV, and there it is: a big honking weed, right in the middle of my psychological rose garden.

Actually it's not a weed, but rather the American Republican Party—but I assure you, there is no disrespect intended to any sow thistle of my acquaintance.

As mid-term elections loom south of the 49th, the party of Ronald Reagan and Jesse Helms sinks deeper into senile dementia as it strives to define the issues that will shape the first years of the 21st century.

And just what are those issues, you might well ask.

Gun control?

Nah. Guns don't kill people. Grade five students kill people.

The environment and global warming?

Hey, c'mon: this is the party that embraced the idea that AIDS was God's punishment on homosexuals, and so we're probably responsible for the hole in the ozone layer, too. Mind you, so far they've failed to make us take the rap for overpopulation—but stay tuned.

It's not even poverty or soaring medical costs that are worrying the GOP because, after all, everybody knows that the poor and the sick have only themselves to blame.

No, not surprisingly, what's gnawing at the sorry old butt of the party of sorry old butts like George Bush and Bob Dole is, as usual, gays and the threat we represent to traditional family values.

Now, if those words immediately conjure up visions of the biblical rants of yesterday then, sorry, you're out of touch. What today's Republicans are claiming is that homosexuality is a disease which can be cured, and to support that fact, they're pumping out an ad campaign that features a number of one-time gays who now claim to be living life as straight people.

This is news? Back in the '60's, there were all sorts of gays who lived their lives as straight people, only then we called ourselves closeted, not cured.

But 'cured' these folks claim to be—and because these few claim to have 'overcome their illness', the Republicans now feel that any equal rights protection extended to gays should be repealed. Post haste.

At first, one is tempted to get caught up in arguments about the validity of this so-called cure. "If these clowns have a support group," I found myself thinking, "I'd bet it's one of the cruisiest places in the lower 48."

From there, it was a short hop to: "Would they think that Madonna successfully 'cured' her Italian heritage with a bottle of peroxide? Would you want a woman about whom you cared deeply to marry a 'cured' homosexual? Maybe bisexuals aren't just homosexuals with a fear of commitment, as a friend once assured me, but rather closet Republicans."

But ultimately, all such discussion is moot.

Because finally, until the right—religious and otherwise—can demonstrate how two people making love in the privacy of their own bedroom has a negative impact on society as a whole, then the gay community is entitled to the same rights as any other—and I use this word advisedly—f**kers.

But, you know, it does serve to remind me that sometimes the best way to get rid of an overgrown weed isn't to uproot it, but simply cut it back with the biggest machete you can find.

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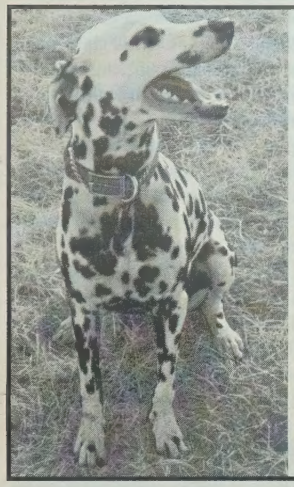

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FEATURE

Stream of comic-ness

by David Crosson

This year's ARGRA rodeo got off to a rollicking start thanks to the comedic stylings of Suzanne Westenhoefer, who packed Symons Valley's Driftwood Hall to its rough-hewn rafters on the event's opening Friday. For almost one-and-a-half hours she ranted and ranked on topics from Martha Stewart to gynaecology, filling the hall with loud, proud, laughter. Between a shopping frenzy at M.A.C., and the evening's performance, Westenhoefer granted *Outlooks* an exclusive interview.

Outlooks: Some people say the best humour is born of misery, or at least a reaction to unpleasant situations. Do you agree with that statement?

Westenhoefer: I do agree with it, but it is not my "mainframe" by any means. I've got pain in my life—I don't think there's anyone who can say they haven't—and yes, I think it's an amazing thing to take a sad event and make it funny onstage, but for me it's more like I find humour in mundane things: dogs, relationships, life—you know, the world.

Outlooks: What sort of challenges do you face as a woman—or particularly as a gay woman—in this business?

Westenhoefer: In the comedy business I think I suffer more for being a woman than a gay person. In the "regular" comedy clubs across the country, if there are six comics getting up it's five men and one woman, and [in great "*Fargo*" accent] "sometimes, you know, they have the 'Women's Night', you know" and that is going on, so I don't see it changing anytime soon. In the entertainment business, where I'm trying to get a television show and work that way, I suffer more as a gay person—although every single month it gets better. The last two to three years have been... well, we've had as much change as we've had in twenty years. It's astounding.

Outlooks: That must be very inspiring for you, or at least provide you with a sense of reinforcement.

Westenhoefer: It's very inspiring, but the business of entertainment, trying to "make it in Hollywood", is the most hurtful, debilitating thing in the world. You just have to have good people around you or it will break you in half. It's so painful; they're so cruel. It's like "you're too short." Well, what can I do about it? You're judged on the most shallow, fragmented things. And who can stand up to it?

Outlooks: Do you find, then, that coming from a background of someone "in the margins" of society, you are better equipped to deal with that?

Westenhoefer: It's still rough. It's not like they're saying "we hate you because you're gay." Or "we dislike you because you're a sinner"—like I get up every morning and worry about that! I'm a girl in North

American culture, so when you're judged on your weight and your height and your hair colour and how old you are—we take that anyway, but it is such a heightened thing in Hollywood that it's painful. I can go in to audition for a small part in a sitcom and the room is filled with 5'10" 110 lb. 22-year-olds who are runway models. And you don't even think you're unattractive and then you go "oh, guess I am." And there's nothing you can do about it.

Outlooks: What makes Suzanne Westenhoefer laugh?

Westenhoefer: Many, many, *many* things. I really find humour in most things and I enjoy laughter. I am a fan of comedy. I will sit up late at night and watch comics on TV and laugh by myself in a hotel room like I'm stoned. I enjoy a great piece of humour. I am not a fan of the sort of Three Stooges hit-you-on-the-head-fall-down stuff. There are some women and men that can do that and it's brilliant: your Donald O'Connors, your Lucille Balls, you know; I love that. But I laugh at silly stuff. I also have a dark sense of humour, as most comics do, which you can't bring on stage because no one would appreciate it. You can't help it: you're a comic and you get into a frame of mind where you're finding humour in all things. I can be watching CNN and they can show you a tragic story and you just can't help it, you think of the funny thing.

Outlooks: Is what makes you laugh different from what you select to make an audience laugh?

Westenhoefer: I will say that there is this thing that will happen where I will find something that is funny and I will say it onstage and it won't get a laugh. And I will say it onstage for weeks and months and my girlfriend will finally say "honey, that is funny to you, and *no one else on the planet*" and I just have to let it go.

Outlooks: What subjects do you consider off-limits in comedy, or at least in your comedy?

Westenhoefer: I would say there are very few things that I would stay away from totally. Rape is never going to be funny to me. I'm a woman, it's a threat, I'm going to have to live with it. I mean, they rape old ladies in nursing homes, it's never *not* a threat for us, it's always going to be. Incest is never going to be funny to me. I've known too many women—and men—whose lives were just broken and torn because of it. Child abuse. The torturing of animals. Something where the weaker one can't fight back. I can't find humour in something that is totally, downright mean-spirited. You can say something mean about a public figure, a president or a senator, especially if they're an enemy of the gay community, and it can have more of an edge to it and you know they're not suffering from you. They're laughing all the way to the bank or wherever. They're out there and comics can use that. I don't find it funny when they make fun of the President's weight problem, for example, 'cause you know that's just mean; the man's struggling forever—make fun of his policies, make fun of the fact that he apparently can't keep his fly zipped. This is funny, but to make fun of, say, a person's birthmark, or his weight problem, it's just cruel and so I don't ever find that funny.

Outlooks: Is there a difference between being a comedian and just being funny?

Westenhoefer: Being a comedian—making a profession out of it—is so much different that being funny amongst your friends. It's the ability to know that these people aren't your friends and that you have to *make* them your friends. You have to have organization, you can't just get up there and chat. It has to almost appear that you got up there to chat, but it's the difference between someone who can get the guitar out around the campfire and get everyone to sing and it's just fabulous, and that person being, you know, a Grammy winner. It's a lot of work, a lot of rejection, knowing that you have to get up on stage and be funny even if your grandfather just died! I can't get up on stage and say "my grandfather just died, I don't feel like being funny"—people just spent fifteen or twenty bucks to see me, they don't really care. So it's making a job of it, you have to be funny on demand.

Outlooks: Do you feel that this whole move towards a gay comedy genre sort of ghettoizes our experiences, rather than weaving a gay perspective into mainstream material? Or do you think it's a good thing?

Westenhoefer: I think it's a good thing. I don't really believe in the term "ghettoize" because we are a separate group, and for us to have our separate events is a beautiful, fun, energetic, pride-filled thing. I think that's where everything starts. Black comics had their own clubs. Jewish comics had their own clubs. The crossover into the mainstream is, of course, "the goal" but there are some comics who don't want to play the mainstream, who love preaching to the converted. I think that's great. But I want to do both. I love being in front of an all-gay audience and I hope I instill in them a sense of how cool it is to be gay. But when I'm in front of a straight audience, I have an agenda, a message, so it's very separate for me. People say "Why do you want to be called a lesbian comedian, instead of just a comedian?" Well, we don't live in a perfect world, and we need to be role models, we need to be examples and if I just go "oh, I'm a comedian," then I'm not an example, I'm not a role model. And I feel a great responsibility to the gay community to represent them. I know I can't represent them in a specific way, but in a very general, positive light. And that's why if I just go along and pretend that I'm not gay, then I'm no help. You don't meet many blonde activists who wear a lot of makeup.

Outlooks: What is your take on the Ellen situation: too far? Not far enough?

Westenhoefer: Honestly I don't think it was either. I think people have sort of missed the real point of it. Ellen DeGeneres was a gay woman who did not live an activist, "out-there" gay life. When she came out and went around the country speaking, and met the children who had been beaten up, and met the mothers of sons who were killed, and met the women who lost their children, her consciousness level went through the roof and she brought that back to her comedy and it became unfunny... Because those aren't funny things, those are sad, and tragic and horrible things that we live with every day. And she probably felt that she could, through her show, change these things. She's not wrong in thinking that, but in the end it's still show *business* and she has to be funny *first*. And she, Ellen DeGeneres, lost the Ellen Morgan sort of whimsy and the people who tuned in

...continued on page 11

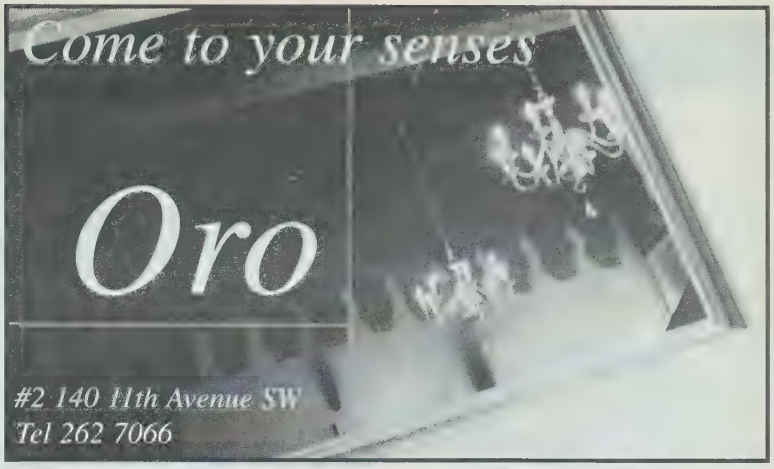
...Suzanne Westenhoefer, continued from page 10

felt sort of betrayed: who's this person? This is not the same character we've been following for four years. I don't think people cared so much that she came out as gay as she became angry.

Outlooks: You feel she overloaded the lifeboat.

Westenhoefer: Right! Exactly! I never felt that it was "too gay" but I felt that it was too angry, too "agenda". And I have a tremendous agenda—but I'm not angry. And I do remember that, in the end, if the audience doesn't laugh then they'll never get my message. I'm not a minister or a politician; they're coming to see comedy and that doesn't mean I don't sneak stuff in all the time—I totally do—but it's very hard to be forty years old and see what's really going on in the gay community. I think her mind was totally blown. I mean, you live in Los Angeles and you're gay—*who cares?* You get a little spoiled, you're in a vacuum. I think she went out there speaking and connecting with the reality of life in general and it was too much to handle. And I don't think it was damaging for us in any way, and I hope it wasn't damaging for her career. I think she opened a door that can never be closed again and now it's a matter of how we, the gay performers in Hollywood, can push that a little further until we have a couple of gay shows on TV—that straight people like. She was the *first*—everything that she did, as far as I'm concerned, was *fabulous* 'cause she was brave, she jumped, just hoping the net would be there. I can't fault her. And do you know what? I can't fault Disney—they gave her the chance. No one else did. Then they got scared: the ratings went down, nobody watched. You, me, I don't care how gay she was, if there were 40 million people watching every week, if she was getting a 40-share or a 30-share, that show would still be on. It could be naked women. You know this because of Jerry Springer, because of Howard Stern. We know it's not about that. They would put on *Hitler On Ice* if it got the ratings that *ER* did. But for Disney, it is a business and when the ratings plummeted, it was gone. And that's really too bad. She needed a lighter touch with her message, because her message is the one we all want: acceptance, understanding, get over yourself. I do think Disney did get scared in the sense that they stopped pushing the show, but they're a business—we're not going to be vital to them unless we bring in the ratings and you know what? That's going to be the same whether it's black or Jewish or Asian, that's just the game. Hello! Welcome to our culture! They do these studies once in a while that say that actually, gay people really don't have any more money and I keep saying "shhh, shhh—don't tell anybody that! This is a piece of stereotypical information that we can use. Do *not* screw this up."

Special thanks go to ARGRA for facilitating this exclusive interview.



Here's to you, Mr. Robinson

by Derek Antonio

Does age really make a difference in a relationship? Or is it maturity? Or maybe it's experience? Regardless, these questions raise great debate as to who should, and who shouldn't, date. I'm curious, I suppose, of what it would be like to go out with someone older, maybe thirty-something. My parents are certainly a prime example that love holds no boundaries; picture this: my father was twenty-one when my mother was born! Yet, through it all, they've managed to stick together for sixteen years. I wonder how they, or any couple with such a significant age difference, do it. Love is love, I suppose, in any size, shape or form.

Twenty-one years is a huge gap; it's probably not nearly as common as couples with only five or ten years between them. Age difference is usually less noticeable with couples who are older—a couple comprised of a forty- and fifty-five-year-old doesn't seem as threatening as a couple consisting of a twenty and a thirty-five-year-old. You can see the age difference in a younger couple, whereas with older couples, at least visually, nothing seems "wrong." Unfortunately, younger couples do get a lot of criticism because some people don't see them as two people in love, rather as two people using each other.

I've always questioned what a twenty-year-old could offer someone in their thirties or forties beyond the obvious, of course. Perhaps that's why there's a lot of ignorance around this issue, because no one can seem to understand it. I honestly admire those who can make such arrangements work, because I'm sure it takes a heck of a lot of understanding.

Often in our society, gay or straight, we have a few young people who are mature beyond their physical years and, even though their bodies look young, their minds have aged far more than their skin. This is not a bad thing, but it can result in complications when they try to date someone their own age, because their dates haven't grown up enough yet. Some of these young adults give up on their own age group and date within an older crowd simply because they can offer more common ground (there's certainly a lot more security in dating someone older). I'd at least like to think that there would be a little less game-playing and a lot more action involved—action in the sense of quality time, as opposed to just sex, or getting drunk and going clubbing. Dinner parties and picnics in the park come to mind as "action" activities.

In our community, we have people who come out when they're fourteen, and we have people who don't come out until they're forty. It's been said that coming out later in life only makes it that much more difficult to meet Mr. Right. Think about it: you're forty-three, you've just left your wife and now you're free. You can do anything you want, you can date anyone you want, but most others your age you have done it all before. They've traveled the world over, have possibly slept with every available Tom, Dick, and Harry, and now they want some sort of marriage. So there you are, stuck in a room full of "been-there-done-thats" and all you want is to meet someone with some sort of zest, ambition, and a list of dreams that need fulfilling. Chances are you're not going to find them there, but you could in a room full of younger people. Need I say more?

When it comes down to it, I must applaud all those people out there in our community who have been adventuresome and explored different age groups. Maybe those of you out there who can't seem to find what you're looking for should take a risk and date someone "new."

It's unfortunate that in our society an image can mean so much. But love isn't an image; even though we want the person in our arms to be met with everyone else's approval, as long as you love them that's all that should matter. Younger or older, you're connected at the soul, and age is just a number.

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We invite you all to come by and visit us at the new location: 1206 6 Avenue South (T1J 1A4). For more information, you can call us at 328-8186 (LAC) or 329-4666 (GALA). GALA/LA's a new e-mail address is: gaylethbridge@hotmail.com

—Rob Browatzke

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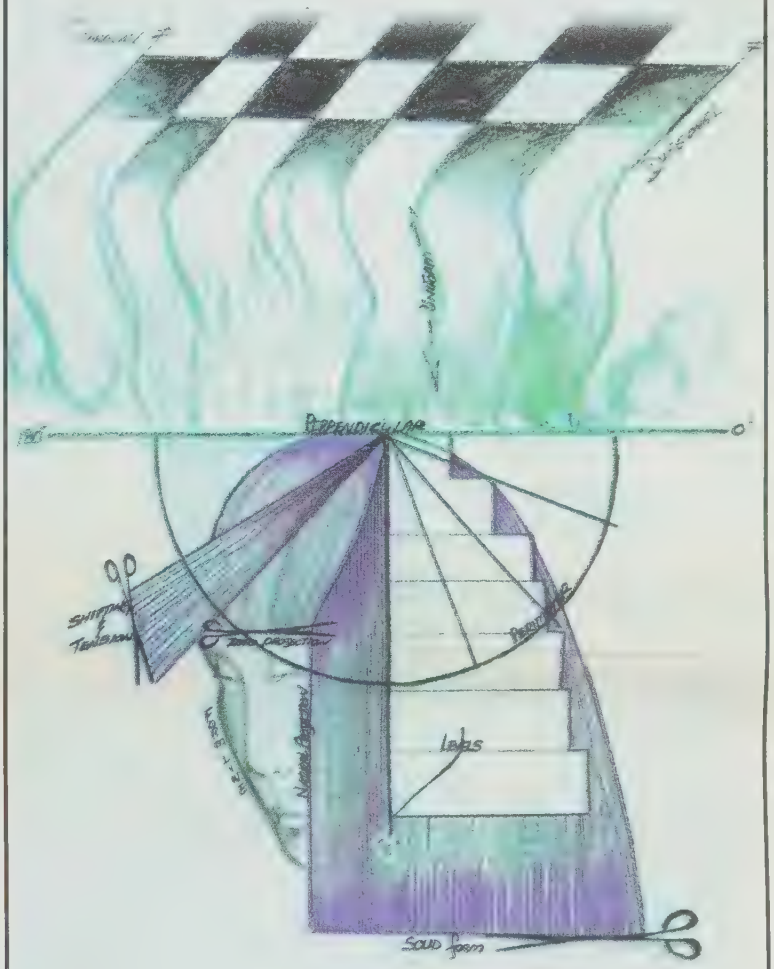

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Get it in writing

by Deb Bridge

Spring is traditionally the season of love and romance, but spring eventually becomes summer, and that's when some romances–especially 'living together' ones–seem to hit the rocks.

One lesbian couple I know split after several years together. They didn't have a mortgage and there weren't any children involved, so it should, apart from the emotional pain, have been a clean break, right? Wrong.

The partner who was staying on in the couple's rented house changed all the locks the day after her girlfriend told her she wanted to split up; the girlfriend arrived home from out-of-town business to find her clothing, furniture, electronic equipment, and personal possessions–all things she'd bought and paid for before the relationship began–held hostage because she could no longer get into the house. She couldn't afford a lawyer, couldn't wait to go to small claims court, and *needed* her 'stuff.' Her solution? She essentially broke into the house through a basement window when her ex-partner was at work, got her things, and moved on.

In another situation, a gay male couple who seemed 'made for each other' broke up after living together for several months. Neither partner alone could afford the two-bedroom apartment they'd rented, so they agreed to each take a bedroom and continue sharing the rent and groceries until they could give notice and find separate accommodation. The first of the month came, and one partner didn't have his share of the rent; the other, in whose name the apartment had been leased, couldn't cover the whole cost, so he faced eviction and a bad reference from the landlord.

In yet a third breakup, the 'jilted' partner refused to move out, believing her continued physical presence in the residence would give her some legal right to a portion of the other's business interests, with which she had occasionally "helped out."

According to Sam Sebree, of Courtney Sebree law firm, there are different options for dealing with each of these situations. In the first, the locked-out partner could have called the police and asked to be escorted to the residence to collect her possessions. Sebree says that in similar cases she's heard of, the resident partner has complied with the police request and let the other in—but if that doesn't work, *get a lawyer!*

In the second instance, had both parties' names been on the lease or rental agreement, both would have been equally liable. But often, as in this case, the rental accommodation is in one person's name only, and that person should be aware that they are solely responsible for payment. This issue is covered under the Landlord and Tenant Act, and the person whose name is on the lease is the one who gets the place and suffers the consequences, no matter who pays the rent.

In the third case, there is some precedent in case law for something called "Equity." It is possible that the 'jilted' partner could be entitled to compensation, if she could prove that she had contributed to the business in some measurable way and had not been previously or adequately compensated. This would necessitate hiring a lawyer and preparing a court case, which could very well cost more than the worth of requested compensation.

We've all seen the bimbo-blonde-trailer-trash on *Jerry Springer* who's been mistreated countless times and proclaims "but I love him!" in the face of everything logical that dictates she leave the other and get a life. We've also all been quick to pronounce "those losers" as exactly that.

Sadly, we're not so good at avoiding the same pitfalls and extricating ourselves from the same dilemmas.

When relationships end, two things that may not previously have been important get in the way: *money* and *possessions*. If the breakup isn't mutually agreed upon, the partner who wants the relationship to continue may "seize" both, hoping the other will "see the light." Likewise, the rejected partner may simply want to complicate the other's life by being vindictive.

If you're thinking about a live-in arrangement with your current 'squeeze,' set your hormones and your emotions aside, and consider the following; they'll make your new life together easier and, should the relationship *not* last forever, make the breakup less messy:

1. Discuss and agree on how expenses (rent, groceries, phone bill, utilities) will be shared *before* you set up house. Will you have a joint account to cover these? Will you register both your names on the lease and other shared bills?

2. Discuss how household chores (cooking, dishes, vacuuming, laundry, grocery shopping) will be divided. Is one of you neat and the other messy? How will you deal with that?

3. Make a list of who brought what assets–stereo, furniture, computer equipment–into the relationship.

4. When you make large purchases, be sure you both understand whether these items are jointly owned or not.

Sam Sebree recommends, even in situations in which there are no sizable assets, that couples draft a *Cohabitation Contract*. First, decide what you want to include; this should cover tangible assets, who's responsible for what debts, and so on. Second, get a lawyer to draw up the contract. Third, one of you must take the contract to another lawyer for an independent opinion on its fairness and equitability. Having the contract done will cost you about $500.00, but it *will* hold up in court and can save you much more than that if the relationship doesn't work out in the end.

If you can't afford a lawyer, *get something in writing anyway, and try to ensure that it's fair to both of you.* Sebree had a client who'd been coerced by his former partner into signing an agreement that was not drafted by a lawyer and was not fair to her client, who didn't hire her until after the breakup. To Sebree's surprise, the judge upheld the agreement in court and her client was held legally responsible for things for which he would not otherwise have been liable.

We all want to believe that "all you need is love," but love doesn't pay the bills, and more and more people are realizing that. Sebree says she's done six cohabitation contracts so far this year–more than in all previous years she's been practicing law.

There's a straight couple in the U.S. who have a contract covering everything from how often they have sex to what kind of gas they use in their vehicles; they were the butt of many jokes when they appeared on TV talk shows a few years ago. Well, guess what? They're still together and still happy, and they claim that working out the *practical* aspects of their relationship on paper has freed them to focus on the *emotional* aspects.

You don't have to record whether you'll go to Shell or Turbo when you fill up unless you're *really* obsessive about gasoline, but you certainly should clarify the ownership of, and responsibility for, those things that cause problems when relationships end: money and possessions.

In short, *get it in writing!*

Deb Bridge is a teacher, writer, mother, equal rights advocate, and president/online liaison of PFLAG Calgary (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). She welcomes e-mail, and you can write her at pflag@canuck.com (Internet access courtesy of Canada Connect Corporation).

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FIRE YOUR MAID

A Clockwork Fringe

by Darrin Hagen

If there's one good thing about living in Edmonton, it's the summer. Some say winter in Alberta builds a little too much character, and that would explain the burst of insane energy that hits Festival City as soon as the warm weather arrives. From May to September, the celebration is non-stop—but the grand-daddy of the Edmonton festival season would have to be The Fringe.

Ask any actor, director, designer or musician in town what he or she is doing

this August, and the standard reply is, "Oh, I'm doing a couple of Fringe shows." The more foolhardy among us sign up for three, five, even seven shows all running at the same time in Old Strathcona. Suddenly all the south side waiter jobs are up for grabs as the performing community indulges in an orgy of expression that lasts for ten crazy days. Careers have been built at the Fringe. Theatre companies are born at the Fringe. Shows that are eventually produced all over Canada (and beyond) have gotten their start at the Fringe.

If I sound a little like I'm dragging out the superlatives a little generously, it's because the Fringe holds a very dear place in my heart. It has ever since 1987, when I grabbed my first glance at the Festival That Ate Strathcona. In true drag fashion, it was an insider's view, as Guys In Disguise were making their debut on the scene. Even though it was the ruthless, clenched 80's, drag was everywhere: Toronto drag queen/writer Kent Staines was starring in *Lana Lust: The Bitch Stops Here*, and Ronnie Burkett was performing in drag in One Yellow Rabbit's *Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp*. Eleven years later, gay content is still up front and center at "A Clockwork Fringe", as it's known in this, its seventeenth year.

The stats are enough to make a girl's head spin: 113 indoor shows in ten days. Of those 113 shows, a full eighty are world premieres of brand new works. From August 13 - 23, Old Strathcona becomes a magnet for all those with a taste for adventure. Where else can you pay eight bucks and see international theatre, performance art, clowning, multimedia, cabaret, and comedy all within somersaulting distance from the nearest beer tent (where The Big Onion's faithful theatre audience sits debating the pros or cons of whatever it has just seen). It's a whirlwind of energy that finishes off the short Edmonton summer in style.

A quick preview of the Fringe program (you'll need one of these to keep all the shows at your finger tips... plus, you can't get into the beer tent without one) shows that lesbigay characters and plotlines are everywhere. I culled through the offerings for you, dear reader, so I could make an important point: in a world dominated by American media, theatre can be an oasis of identification for a queer audience. If you think gays and lesbians are under-represented in the media, it's because you're watching the *wrong* media. In the world of theatre, gays and lesbians are near-common, living their lives and loves in full view of the world. Here are some sneak previews of some queer sightings in the Fringe program:

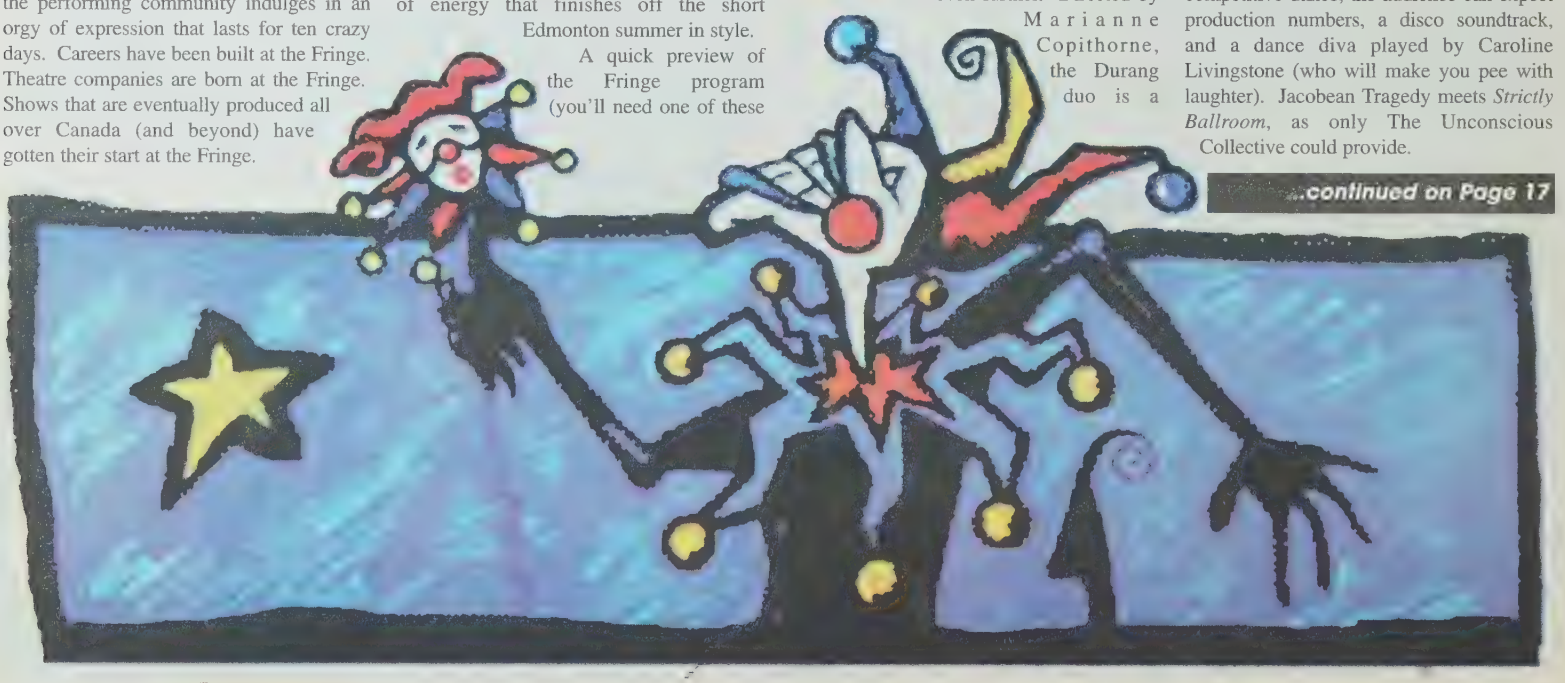
Deux Durang is a couple of short plays by Christopher Durang. The plays landed in the middle of last year's season as a

collective. Dance Like A Monkey Productions had so much fun with them that they decided it deserved to be seen by more people. So now Ron Pederson, Roger Schultz, Stephanie Wolfe, and Davina Stewart can spread their message of mirth even further. Directed by Marianne Copithorne, the Durang duo is a merciless parody. One of the plays is entitled *For Whom The Southern Belle Tolls* and is a retelling of *The Glass Menagerie*, with our tragic central character's cherished collection of swizzle sticks. Stephanie Wolfe plays a deaf lesbian in this hilarious romp.

Returning this year is Timothy J. Anderson and company (Commedia Tutti Santi) with a remount of last year's hit, *The Fourth Tenor*, plus a sequel. Entitled *Farelinelli* (pronounced "fairly nelly"), it will take place in All Saints Anglican Cathedral. Vocal hygiene, Anglican liturgy, and the politics of health care swirl around the appearance of the world's oldest boy soprano at the seating of the new bishop.

From the vicious pen of Trevor Schmidt comes his newest work, an adaptation of the classic John Ford tale of incest, revenge and murder, *'Tis A Pity She's A Whore*. This solid gold retelling of the tale is called *Too Bad She's A Big Ol' Slut* (Schmidt surely wins the best title of the year award). Set in the cutthroat world of competitive dance, the audience can expect production numbers, a disco soundtrack, and a dance diva played by Caroline Livingstone (who will make you pee with laughter). Jacobean Tragedy meets *Strictly Ballroom*, as only The Unconscious Collective could provide.

...continued on Page 17



...The Fringe, from page 16

A new collaboration this year is Gerald Osborne and Andy Northrup's *Toying With Dinky* (light in the loafers productions), a musical that features a diva held hostage and tied up in a warehouse. Revenge is sweet, and has a catchy melody, too! Tony Sharkey plays this Fringe in a dress (welcome to the club, darling!).

The Varscona Gang is everywhere, as usual, this Fringe. Most do several shows a year, and one they like to join forces on is *Die-Nasty*, their improvised soap opera that has been playing to throbbing, lusty crowds for seven seasons. The special Fringe edition features new characters, but expect return visits by faces such as Dirk Stonewall, actor Jeff Haslam's first bisexual character. Stonewall is a silent movie heartthrob with a crippling speech impediment.

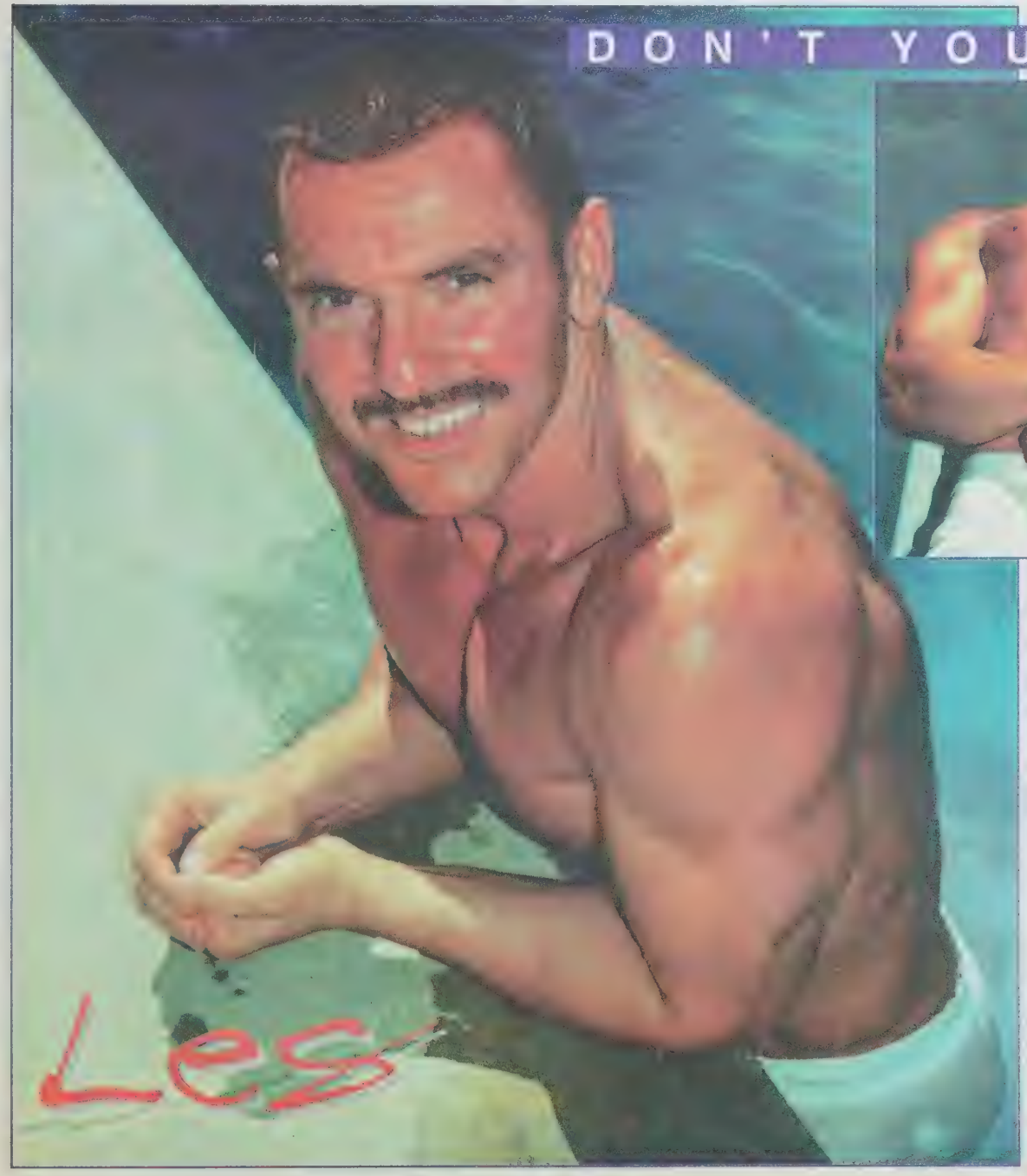
Of course, Fringe wouldn't be Fringe without an appearance by the Fringe's favorite falsies: the Guys in Disguise production this year is a transgender parody of 40's detective movies. *Tranny, Get Your Gun!* tells the tale of a private dick with something extra. Starring Aaron Franks, Harvey Anderson, Michelle Brown and Sandy Paddick, *Tranny* is written by Christopher Craddock and yours truly. Craddock is also acting in his own one-man show, written with Wes Borg, called *HA!*, and assures me that there are gay characters in that play, too. (Or is he just weaseling his way into my article?)

All this and more! Gay musicals (*Falsettos*, produced by Epiphany Theatre), a show from Red Deer (*Canadian Dreamin'...Eh!* written and directed by Shane Snow, which features a kinky actor who plays Bottom in a gay *Midsummer Night's Dream*), womyn's comedy (*Sensible Footwear Dish The Dirt*), and more fabulous actors, writers, designers and cuties than you could shake a schtick at.

So get your program. Get a green onion cake. Head to the beer tent, and find out what's hot. Ten bucks says the brothers and sisters are leading the pack in critical praise and audience adoration.

But then, hasn't it always been that way...?

DON'T YOU WISH?



Les is proud to be representing Canada in the bodybuilding competition at Gay Games '98 in Amsterdam.

PHOTO BY MOUNTAIN WEST STUDIOS LTD.

ERADICATE DIRT!

Pride in motion

by Alex Alexander

According to the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, "pride" means: *1. a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or displayed in bearing, conduct, etc. 2. the state or feeling of being proud. 3. a becoming or dignified sense of what is due to oneself or one's position or character; self-respect; self-esteem*

Here, in laid-back Lotus Land, the local Pride Day parade and associated events are welcome reminders of just how accepting a city can be of its gay and lesbian population. In Vancouver, the August 2nd Pride Parade attracts thousands of people. Drag queens and bare-breasted-leather-clad-lesbians mingle with blue-rinse geriatrics, and twinkie couples help single moms push baby strollers down busy streets. All line the parade route, jostling for the best vantage point from which to cheer and/or ogle and/or gasp as the spectacle passes.

The parade begins at noon at the intersection of Robson and Denman streets, in the heart of the West End, and for two hours parade participants promenade along Denman, Beach and beyond. Everyone who has filled out an application is welcome to participate. The variety of participants is a great testament to the level of tolerance for diversity in this part of the city. Indeed, at the head of the parade the crowd-pleasing, self-titled "Dykes on Bikes" freely advertise the 'leather lifestyle' as they rev their Harley Davidson motorcycles. Breasts and buttocks jiggle and jostle on growling metal steeds. Behind them follows an assortment of entries: from clowns and local business people to various ethnic, religious, and political groups—all represented by their gay brothers and sisters.

Louder than the motorcycle mamas are the professionally decorated floats of the local gay bars, rolling boom-boxes of toe-tapping music. Bar-boys shake their money-makers on and around the club floats, passing out complimentary passes, condoms, and other topical treats. It is after sighting these floats that many of the more impressionable spectators break rank to follow in a dancing frenzy, like the children of Hamlin irresistibly drawn to the music of the Pied Piper's flute.

Another perennial parade favourite is the contingent of Speedo-clad water polo boys (the parade is quite a coup for them when it comes to signing up new members). They certainly know how to dress for success in this endeavor! Perhaps there is a recruitment lesson here for our own dear Canadian military: let me pick and choose a few privates (pun intended) to take part in the next Pride parade and I'll bet you'll see an increased enlistment from one particular segment of the population.

Gay teachers from surrounding municipalities are always loudly cheered, especially those who have hired old-fashioned yellow school buses for the occasion. No group, however, is so resoundingly applauded than the scores of people under the PFLAG banners. What could be more affirming than watching a whole family, from grandparents to children, walking in support of a gay member (or *members*)?

Once the parade ends, the rest of the party begins. Most people split their time between Sunset Beach Park and Ceperly Picnic Area in Stanley Park. At Sunset Beach Park, Denny's on Davie Street and the Virgin Megastore sponsor "The Concert". There's live music, food and drink, as well as games, vendors, and info booths. My favorite charity

game is "Dunk a Hunk", especially on hot parade days when those awaiting a dunking sport only their underwear. Honey, the way cotton can cling!

In Stanley Park, the fine folks at AIDS Vancouver are the hosts. There's a fiery lantern procession and food, plus jugglers, acrobats, and musicians. And best of all, everything hosted by AIDS Vancouver is free! Donations are, of course, gratefully accepted.

Opportunities to cruise and shmooze once the parade ends also await those on the prowl. The West End Community Centre puts on the city's largest t-dance in the afternoon. To really cruise, the Riley Cafe offers its annual evening Cruisey T aboard the MV *Britannia*. This four-hour ocean cruise is always the topic of much gossip for days after! For twinkie night owls, as an alternative to the regular offerings at the gay bars, *XtraWest* sponsors a queer youth dance and cabaret for those under 25. Alas, for me the 25th year has come and gone. Suffice to say that no amount of makeup would get me past the keen-eyed guards at the entrance to this event. "Troll" has such a nasty ring to it, don't you think? I much prefer "Daddy"—but that's another story...

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HOROSCOPE

by Charlene Lichtenstein

Celebrate the sensuous days of August by promising to wear as little as possible; let's show the world how beautiful we are inside and Out. Every personal planet (Sun, Mars, Mercury and Venus) spends a good portion of their time in proudly confident Leo now. Move all plans to the front burner and bring to a boil, friends. Spice to taste.

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

School is out, but the planets demand that you follow the three "Rs" - romance, relaxation and revelry. (try it with a teacher....) Enjoy yourself, gay Ram, but keep a beady eye on career shenanigans. Foggy Neptune regresses into Capricorn on the 24th which can make the best-laid professional plans as valuable as the paper they're scribbled on.

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

August is an opportune time to explore family issues. Although heart and mind may not be in sync, it's possible to make some headway in even the most irksome of areas. Compromise is not in the cards, so don't build bridges if they have a toll. Concentrate instead on home entertaining or, even better, home redecorating. Proud Bulls need a castle; don't settle for a stable.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Charming Venus, feisty Mars and optimistic Sun give proud Twins amazing schmooze power this month. You can sugarcoat ultimatums and get what you want *and* need. (Retro Mercury asks *if* you know what you want and need.) Choose lovers wisely after the 24th: delusional Neptune can send you a naked troll on a silver platter. Are you *that* hungry?

CANCER
(JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Pink Crabs can make a few bucks this month when financial matters are pleasantly highlighted. Do your homework and listen carefully to sound advice so you can sock some extra funds away for a rainy day. Avariciousness alone won't make the grade: it is a wise gay Crab that always considers partners their better half. Retro Neptune will remind you!

LEO
(JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Gay Lions require very little in the way of self-confidence so why fight fate? Strut your stuff this month, sweetheart, and show the world why you are soooo darn proud. One word of caution: don't become too overbearing and demanding. You often call 'em as you see 'em, but it is the wise Lion who uses Venus' velvety charm and persuasion to get the iron point across.

VIRGO
(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

If an idea pops into your mind from out of nowhere, entertain it. But don't follow it off a cliff because Mercury is, after all, retrograde and sends some mixed signals. Insure the good karma and channel the psychic static by volunteering for a worthy gay cause or by doing good gay deeds. Community service pays better than cheap and tawdry times this month, sorry to say.

LIBRA
(SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Rope a few friends in for a good time and if they need a buck or two, what the hell. Sun, Venus and Mars conspire to put you in the center of the social set. I know that is exactly where you want to be! Queer Libras may hit a few snags at home or with family after the 24th when daffy Neptune turns the tables upside down. Who cares as long as you have proud pals?

SCORPIO
(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Proud political Scorps have their work cut out for them this August as every personal planet impacts career plans. Thank the Sun, Mars and Venus for making every bolt from Olympus a personal twist and shout. Retro Mercury coupled with retro Neptune makes you less than eloquent. How about hiding in your cubicle until after the 23rd? Better still, hide on Fire Island.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Itchy feet? Travelling gay Archers are tempted to scratch them in faraway locales this August with the Sun, Mars and Venus. Why fight fate? Plan your itinerary, check it twice (paying homage to retro Mercury) and only spend what you can afford. If that means a weekend in Moose Jaw rather than the beach, so be it. You'll find a little bit of magic in every squalid corner.

CAPRICORN
(DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Feisty proud Goats won't know what hit 'em this August when every personal planet is ready to heat the stove. Keep in mind that the urge to merge may take precedence over such minor things as your self-respect. So if you find yourself baying at the moon and dressed in draughty lace, console yourself that, as all things, this too shall pass. In the meantime, lie back and enjoy it.

AQUARIUS
(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Humanistic Aqueerians are always ready to embrace a good gay cause. Who could imagine that the next good gay cause would be your personal happiness? The Sun, Mars and Venus are such *yentes*; trying to match you up with just about everybody! Why fight it? Let the Pride parade begin! For those lucky souls who are already matched, start a raging fire.

PISCES
(FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Pink Fish don't feel like taking the summer off when prideful Sun, aggressive Mars and artful Venus hover in Leo. Whether you feel it's necessary to put your nose to the grindstone at work or workout like a maniac with some personal trainer, it's up to you. Get this overzealousness out of your system before the 24th. Then become a lazy slob like the rest of us.

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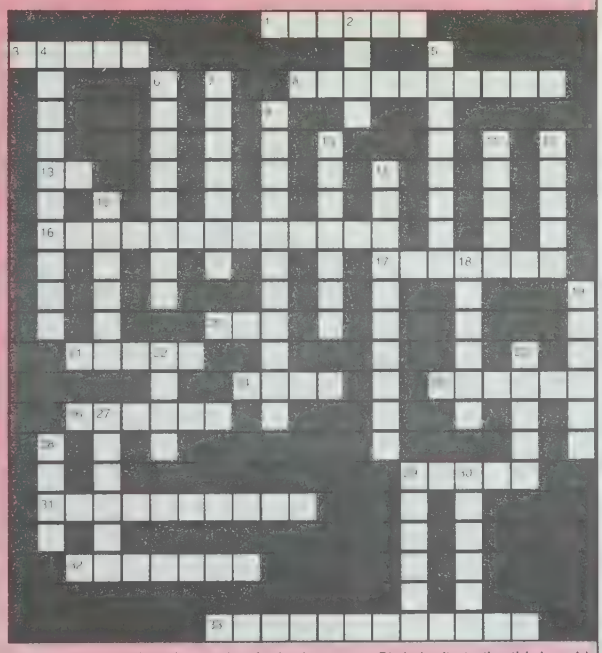
QUEERWORD

clues & words by Outlooks staff
puzzle compiled by Mike Rieger
answers on Page 27



ACROSS

1. The only gay member of Monty Python: Graham ___
3. *Peanuts* potential lesbo: Peppermint __
8. Silver screen smoocher of Kevin Kline
13. This yuppie fashion mag was once a closeted gay glossy
16. Harrison hung with Heche for 6 and 7 of these, respectively
17. Alt. term for homosexual union
20. Came out on our July cover
21. Scott Thompson's *Sanders* sissy
24. Rosalind Russell was everyone's favorite Auntie ___
25. If Babs took his name it would be ___
26. Loved orange juice, hated homos: Anita ___
29. Artist showing posthumously in Edmonton: Brion ___
31. Takes orders well
32. The siblings on this sitcom aren't homos, but they should be
33. Late literary legend

DOWN

2. The 'gayest' grade of milk
4. Ben Affleck starred in it, Calgary's weather looked like it
5. All that glitters isn't gold: Vancouver's Pride was ___
6. Gives orders well
7. ___ of Dorothy
9. Calgary's first 'beefy' gay spot: ___ Steakhouse
10. This Little singer is very Tutti-Frutti
11. Rob Halford, homo heavy metal boy ex of ___ Priest
12. Faggy flick: *The Opposite* ___
14. Position that spread Christianity to the third world
15. Riddle or Melissa's Julie
18. Mistress of the Dark or Kurt comedian
22. ___ retentive
23. Calvin or Ralph
27. Overshoe or condom
28. Ms. Stewart can fuss around the house, this Martha can sing
29. Site of the recent Worldwide Conference on AIDS
30. Defunct NYC Club: ___ 54

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CLEANING UP SOON!

The Phoenix of Granville Street

by Outlooks staff

From 1973 to 1985, there was not a gay establishment in Calgary that Vance Campbell did not own or have something to do with creating. In a way, Vance Campbell had a lot to do with gay Calgary coming of age; he brought the city out of the closet.

In 1988, Campbell moved from Calgary to Vancouver. He is now the Vice President of Operations of the Granville Entertainment Group—a conglomerate that owns the Hotel Dakota, Fred's Tavern, Babalu Tapas Lounge, the Roxy, the Vogue Theatre, Foghorn's Bar'n'Grill, the Planet Cafe and assorted real estate holdings.

In an exclusive interview, *Outlooks* spoke with Campbell in Vancouver.

Outlooks: What was your motivation to do what you did in Calgary? Why the gay-bar business in the first place?

Campbell: Because of the gay bar business in Vancouver—and my motivation for doing that was that I wanted to meet people; I didn't know anything about the gay life. And I wanted to take the shortcut—it was an easy way for me to break into the scene.

Outlooks: Well, we all know that the best way to meet people is to own a bar, right? Everyone's your new best friend?

Campbell: It is the same motivation a lot of people have when they go into the bar business: they want to get laid, and they want to be important. So one day I went to the bank and I was $10,000 overdrawn—and had absolutely no idea how that happened—and I was hanging around with a pretty sad bunch in those days, and we got drunk together, and I decided to pull the plug and boom!—locked the doors, and ran down the alley.

Outlooks: 'Down the alley' being 'ran to Calgary'?

Campbell: 'Down the alley' was the alley behind the Thunderbird in Vancouver—and then I borrowed Tex Cory's American Express Card (who was, at that time, my roommate) and I went to Hawaii and I spent about three weeks on the beach there wondering what I was going to do for the rest of my life. On my way back I had also broken up with my first boyfriend; so I was going to move out of Vancouver. I stopped in Vancouver and got a few things—not much—and ended up in

Calgary in 1973. Three weeks later I purchased The Continental Steakhouse.

Outlooks: Those who lived in Calgary throughout those early years knew that it was the only place to go in town, and it was party-party every night. Many people also grew up at the Parkside and then Myrts and all the other ventures you were involved with. What went wrong? What burst the bubble?

Campbell: Well, the easy answer to that is drugs and alcohol. The underlying answer to that is probably I got *lost* in the drugs and alcohol. It took me years to figure that one out.

Outlooks: You left town in disgrace?

Campbell: Yeah.

Outlooks: You feel that?

Campbell: Yeah. It was very difficult for me, there was about a month or so after my last venture—which was Radio City—closed, before I moved to Vancouver. And during that month I was still a big drinker and smoking a lot of dope and, of course, couldn't afford any cocaine, so going to any of the bars in town was a very scary thing for me, because I put them—or had something to do with putting most of them—together. So I always felt as though I was kind of ostracized, and had definitely overstayed my welcome. I had absolutely no idea what I was going to do with my life at that time, and I was suicidal.

Outlooks: So what happened to turn your life around?

Campbell: I had pretty much reached bottom, and as "bottom" as I'd ever gotten in my life.

And the phone rang. And it was Blaine Culling, who had been my partner—one of my partners—in the Banke, and we'd had a horrible falling-out over that deal, and we hadn't talked to each other for probably three years, and he said "I've got my hands on a bar in Vancouver, and I don't know whether or not there's anything in it for either one of us, it's in a really seedy area of town, and I need some help. Are you interested in coming out and doing it with me?"

Outlooks: And that bar was...?

Campbell: The Roxy. So, yeah, it was a miracle. An absolute miracle. And to this day I absolutely believe that there was divine intervention.

Outlooks: And again, not to segue over a number of years of history, but from the Roxy it turned into all of Granville Street—an overstatement—but basically all of Granville Street is now Granville Entertainment Corp., and you guys are the biggest operators in B.C., are you not?

Campbell: Well, we sell more vodka and Corona beer than any other licensees in British Columbia.

Outlooks: What advice would you give, then, to somebody who wants to get into the bar business and wants to, say, follow in your footsteps? What would you say 'don't do this' or 'do do this'?

Campbell: Do it for the right reasons. This is a wonderful business and people can become very successful in this business if they go into it for the right reasons. And the right reason is not 'to get laid'. And the right reason is not 'to have a party'. It's a business. And it's an easy business to master, as long as you pay attention to the people and pay the bills—and those people are your customers. If you get into it looking to get laid, that may or may not happen. [Laughs.]

Outlooks: Do you find—it's obviously a very blanket statement, and there are exceptions to the rule—as a generalization, that gay clientele and gay customers are much more demanding and exacting, than straight customers?

Campbell: That's a good question. I think we are... choosier. We are less forgiving. And I think we need to lighten up a little bit. The straight bar business is a whole different thing.

Outlooks: Would you suggest, then, that the straight bar business is easier, if that's fair to say?

Campbell: I have to tell you, when I came to Vancouver, my personal experience was that I was so relieved that I could do what I do for a living and not have to deal with all the other issues and all the baggage that went along with that. The second thing I have to tell you is that Alberta people, or people who come from the prairies, to the laid-back West Coast, have a work ethic that West Coast people don't have. I mean, it was easy—I was shocked at how easy it was to become successful here, because I just did what I normally did—and less—and people ate it up. And in Calgary, I worked my butt off, and it seemed that nobody appreciated it—it wasn't enough. So I don't know whether it was doing what I do for a gay clientele to a straight clientele and having it become a success, or moving with the work ethic into a market where everybody was busy playing golf or going swimming or hiking or whatever.

Outlooks: So might the world be able to enjoy a Vance Campbell gay bar in the future?

Campbell: Well, you know, it's funny, because I get asked that question a lot, and up until about a year ago I said absolutely not. Been there, done that. And one thing I'm learning in my old age is that you can't say 'absolutely not' to anything. Anything's a possibility. And I have pondered the idea. But if I do it, I would operate the gay bar like I operate straight bars. It would have the highest level for gay people, with the quality we operate our straight bars at. And I think because of that, my business sense tells me that it would be successful.

Outlooks: Question: where would you like to be in five years?

Campbell: Well, I'd like to be retired. [Laughs.] I'm now at a point in my life where I'd like to enjoy some of the world a little more. I will probably die behind a bar, or playing a record or something. I'll probably die with a coat hanger in my mouth and my hands stuck out saying hello to somebody.

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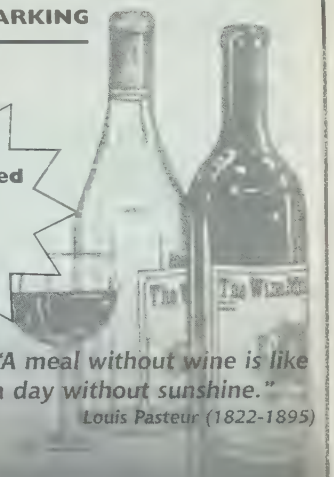

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EXPIRES AUGUST 30/98

Edmonton's prodigal painter

by Norm Sacuta

When you first come up the central steps of the Edmonton Art Gallery to the Brion Gysin exhibit on the second floor, you're greeted by a large orange and yellow canvas across which has been painted, in ink, a calligraphy that seems part Arabic, part Japanese, part nonsense. The painting is itself a preview of what follows in the calligraphic section of the show where a stunning, huge, ten-canvas painting (perhaps some 15-20 metres in length) called "Calligraffiti of Fire", stretches the entire distance of the exhibit space.

Two-foot-high calligraphy cuts across the bright yellow canvases, and the painting both implies the spontaneity of writing and the more rigid formalism of the painter's earlier grid paintings. Like most of Gysin's work on display at the exhibit, "Calligraffiti of Fire" fascinates because of the paradoxical and contradictory forms brought into union. That this painting was done in the last year of the artist's life (he died in 1986) makes it, and him, appear all the more remarkable.

Gysin's whole life was a balancing of equally contradictory forces. Born to Canadian parents in England (his father was a soldier in World War I and died at the Battle of the Somme a few short months after Gysin's birth in 1916), he moved with his mother to Edmonton at the age of five and spent his formative childhood years living in a house off Whyte Avenue. As a child he attended Westward Ho, an Anglican private school, and swam in the outdoor pool now known to Old Strathcona residents as the Queen E.

At the age of 16, however, Gysin left Edmonton for a public school education in England, never to return. He moved to Paris in 1934, and began his painting career, first participating in the Surrealist movement before the war, then moving to Morocco after to join his friends Paul and Jane Bowles. (Paul Bowles is best-known for his novel *The Sheltering Sky*.) Gysin's paintings of the Sahara, made while in Morocco, marked his transition away from Surrealism (his Surrealist sketches in the Edmonton exhibit are perhaps his weakest work) towards formalist experimentation.

Soon he would be in New York working on the multi-media collaborations with William S. Burroughs and other members of the Beat Generation that would make his name and reputation. Most pivotal in these experimentations was Gysin's deployment of a "grid" beneath the collage paintings and visual poems he composed with Burroughs in the exhibit "The Third Mind". Gysin's grids would influence a whole generation of popular and contemporary artists (including the likes of David Bowie, REM, the Rolling Stones, and the late Keith Haring) who had grown tired of abstract expressionism.

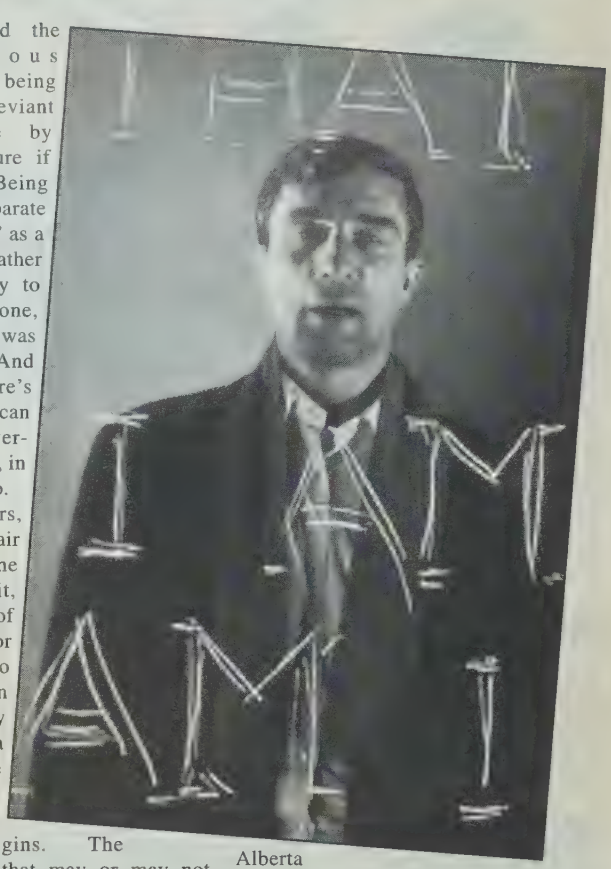
The Gysin exhibit in Edmonton represents the most comprehensive collection of his work ever assembled. During its opening week, John Giorno (Gysin's lover of several years, and himself a well-known Beat poet) did a reading of his own work and held a question and answer session where he addressed some of the contradictory elements in Gysin's art.

Extremely generous as a speaker, Giorno always brought the discussion back to Gysin, and noted that the artist's tendency to belittle where he came from (when Gysin spoke of Edmonton it was usually in less than complimentary terms) was more an indication of his ego than anything to be taken personally. Gysin, Giorno noted, came to speak of Morocco and New York in precisely the same tone, and only Paris, a match to Gysin's own arrogance, met the artist's standards.

Why discuss Gysin in *Outlooks*? After I'd seen the exhibit, a friend and artist asked me if I felt it was in any way "gay history." To tell the truth, the idea of being homosexual was remarkably different just fifty years ago: the kind of homosexual desire and experiences that emerged in the early part of this century don't have a hell of a lot in common with the occasionally maudlin "gay-and-proud-of-it" Pride events that our generation experiences on a regular basis.

That Gysin was almost exclusively, in his desires and relationships, a homosexual is without doubt. His collaborations and friendship with Burroughs certainly mark him as a pivotal figure in the emergence of a politically active and specific "queer" identity that would explode with the Stonewall riots in New York. But as an artist he seems not to have had much time for such an identity. Like other "queer" artists from the interwar and postwar years (such as Djuna Barnes, Gertrude Stein, and Hart Crane) identifying their art and lives as politically "gay" is problematic at best and, at worst, impossible.

Part of both the pain and exhilaration of having homosexual experiences in the first half of this century must have been the invisibility of those relationships (they *had* to be kept quiet) and the simultaneous excitement of being perceived as deviant and subversive by mainstream culture if discovered. Being queer wasn't separate and "identifiable" as a movement, but rather a general malady to which everyone, straight or gay, was susceptible. And sometimes there's much more that can be done, subversively as an artist, in the latter scenario.



One wonders, therefore, if it's fair to say that the Gysin exhibit, marking a sort of return "home" for this major artist to his Edmonton roots, has any connotations as a return of the "gay" artist to his less-than-sympathetic origins. The queer traditions that may or may not have powered some of Gysin's observations of the world, and appear occasionally in his art, are far removed from the sometimes tiring rhetoric of today's "gay identity" politics.

But art is, after all, variable and shifting in its meaning, depending on the context into which it is forced. And any artistic exhibit that brings back to Edmonton a former resident who opened up a whole new way of looking at language and painting can't help but highlight local politics—and the fact that queers have been living in (and leaving) Alberta for more than 80 years. The Edmonton Art Gallery and the show's curators should be commended for that—even if Gysin, perhaps, would not be impressed by the political implications of holding such a show in his former hometown.

The Brion Gysin exhibit, I AM THAT I AM, continues at the Edmonton Art Gallery until August 30. Admission is free. Phone 422-6223 for details. A collection of essays about Gysin, as well as reproductions of his work, is planned for publication by Edmonton's NeWest Press in the fall.

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OUTLOOKS

And last but not least, a big thank you to all of our organizers, volunteers, performers, too numerous to mention—but, without you, Pride Week '98 and the rodeo just wouldn't have been as great as they were!

1998 and still no cure

by Collin Smith

The most surprising thing I have come across as I have begun my work on The Men's Project is that there is a strong belief held by many people in the community that they are not at risk for transmission of HIV. While many gay people are quite educated about HIV/AIDS and how to protect themselves, there is still a misconception that transmission rates are dropping and that it is safer than ever to have unprotected sex. Also, there are many myths out there about vaccines and cures that make us think we are immune to the disease's effects. Unfortunately, this just isn't the case and it may be this attitude that is leading to a rise in the number of new HIV-positive test reports.

In Alberta alone the number of individuals testing positive for HIV has risen to its highest rate in over three years. The Calgary Regional Health Authority reports that over 200 people in Edmonton and Calgary tested positive for the first time in 1997. When we look across the nation, that number almost reaches 2,000 and it is important for us to remember that these statistics only reflect those people who go and get tested. Health Canada estimates that 11,000 - 17,000 Canadians are infected but have never been tested. There is no way for us to know how many people are actually carrying the virus, and it is the people that don't know they are infected who are most likely to transmit it.

AIDS CALGARY

Unfortunately, it doesn't get much better. The UN predicts that by the year 2000, an estimated 40 million people will be infected with HIV worldwide. Right now one in every 100 adults is HIV-infected. We are lucky that in Canada and the U.S. these numbers are not so high, but the numbers are still higher in the gay community. Despite all the awareness work the gay community has put into this fight, male to male sexual contact still accounts for the largest portion of reported cases in North America.

There is some good news: we can celebrate the fact that new infection rates among gay males have dropped by almost 75%. However, the gay community still has high transmission rates, second only to intravenous drug users. In Alberta alone, men who have sex with men made up 20% of all new reported infections, but across Canada that number rises to 37.6%. Within our community the rates go up for younger people: over 100 infections occurred in people under 30 and the majority of infections occurred in people from the age of 15-40. While infections among women have increased severely, men still dominate the disease and continue to infect each other (the ratio of male AIDS cases to female AIDS cases is 17:1 in Alberta).

Despite all the work that has been done, AIDS still claims hundreds of Canadian lives each year. It is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. among people aged 25 to 44. It is true that new treatments—ranging from expensive drug therapies to lifestyle modifications—have brought the number of deaths down dramatically. But people are still dying; Health Canada reports that last year 288 people died bringing Canada's death toll to 11,373.

As a community we have done so much to curb HIV/AIDS. But we can't stop now. Infection rates have dropped and people are living with the disease much longer and with a better quality of life than ten years ago. These are reasons to be optimistic, but these improvements are not due to a safer environment but increased awareness and continued diligence in preventing the virus' spread. Now is not the time to let our guard down. Always protect yourself, whether it is with properly used condoms or through experimentation with safer forms of sexual contact. It is important to do this consistently and correctly so that we don't give the virus a chance to transmit.

The Men's Project is making free condoms available to you in most of the bars and meeting places around the city. Feel free to ask for them when you are out and about. If you have any ideas for good locations to make these materials available or if you are interested in volunteering to help get the message out there we would love to hear from you. You can reach the Men's Project at 819-3775.

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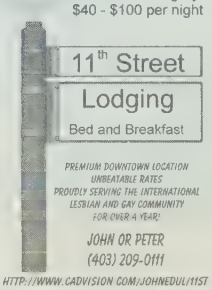

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CLASSIFIEDS

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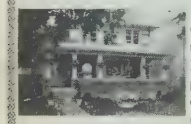

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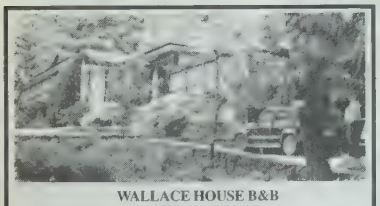

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Alberta Theatre Projects and the Nat Christie Foundation presents *Mom's The Word* at the Martha Cohen Theatre until August 9. Don't miss the hottest comedy of the summer! Tickets $28 cabaret seating or $18 regular seating at TicketMaster or call 294-7402.

From August 10-21, 1998, the Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers and EMMEDIA Gallery and Production Society will be running their Annual Summer Media Arts Camp for Teens in which students will produce and present their very own film or video production. Classes run from 9 to 5, Monday to Friday and the total cost is $250 + GST. Please contact Nick Monahan at 205-4747 for more info or to register.

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Tangled Ice Webs, presented by the National Ice Theatre of Canada at Edmonton's 17th Annual Fringe Festival, August 14 - 23. Tickets are only $8, and are available at the Fringe Box Office (10330-84 Avenue) starting August 6

RED DEER

The Great Alberta Campout 1998, September 4-7, 1998 The greatest campout of the year. Pre-registration deadline is August 1, space is limited. Call Lori at 347-3754 or 340-2198 evenings and weekends

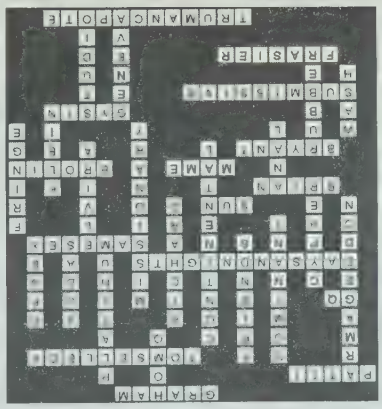
VERNON, B.C.

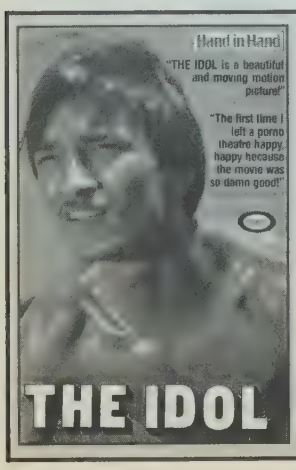
North Okanagan Gay Organization holds gay dances: August 15, and October 31 at the Eagles Hall in Vernon. For further info you can call 542-4842 or 558-6198, or e-mail nogo@junction.net.

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.

Second outrageous Pride day: September 5th, 1998. Contact Rob Pearson at rpearson@mag-net.com

Queerword answers ...see puzzle on page 19





THE IDOL
From: *Hand In Hand Films*
Featuring: *Kevin Redding, Mark Bitler, Nick Rogers, Jerry Foxe, Greg Dale, Jim Bartololta, Derek Stanton, Peter Borchard*
Running Time: *80 minutes*

Nostalgic for the 70's? Remember those tight-fitting flared pants, guys with short mustaches and perfect physiques? Then this movie's for you—and if you don't remember the 70's, they're well worth exploring for the first time. Shot in 1980, this romantic tragedy captures the spirit of the previous decade as it tells the story of a studly college athlete who dies suddenly in an automobile accident.

If this sounds unusual for the storyline of a gay XXX-rated movie—it is, and so is the movie. Gary (*The Idol*) is a handsome young college athlete at the peak of his career. His story is told in a series of moving, emotional flashbacks of experiences with his girlfriend, boyfriends, coach, cousin and ultimately, his lover.

These flashback vignettes take place at Gary's funeral as the different mourners remember their Idol in their own special way. The story unfolds as the young male hero is struggling with his sexual identity and problems with a girlfriend who won't satisfy his basic needs. At first Gary settles for self-gratification, but a group shower in the college locker rooms opens up new horizons for him.

Very soon, during a post-workout massage, Gary's coach is teaching him some new ways to relieve his manly tensions. Following his rub-down, Gary joins his cousin, a former college athlete himself, who is relaxing at home poolside while his parents are away. Skinny-dipping leads to the ultimate incestuous encounter between these two horny studs and Gary proves he's at the top of his game.

Finally, Gary meets the hunk who's been admiring him from a distance and, with close contact, their emotions cause sparks. Their love is declared and only tragedy can separate them.

This movie may be a nostalgia trip but, as gay pornography goes, the story is definitely Hollywood-style and the acting well above the norm.

Take a trip down memory lane, or go back in time and learn something from the past about coming out, love, and the ultimate loss.

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★	SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★	STORY: ★★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★	

A Chile summer break

by Allan Cahoon

If the summer weather is making you hot in Canada, then why not consider a winter getaway to Chile? Chile is a narrow strip of a country that runs 4,239 km. down the length of the southwestern tip of South America. It is bordered by the world's driest desert to the north (Atacama) and the Antarctic polar ice cap to the south, and it is isolated by the mighty Andes mountain range in the east and the Pacific ocean in the west.

Chile's distinctive Latin American culture survived the violence and repression of its recent history, and is thriving again thanks to a population noted for both their warmth and resilience. Chile is one of the two countries most like Europe in Latin America, emerging as a strong democracy with a stable free-market economy, to the envy of its other Latin American neighbors. It is a country rich in culture with an international reputation in art, literature and music. For centuries, many Chilean intellectuals were educated in Europe, particularly in France, a connection reflected in its red, white and blue flag. Chile has produced the Nobel Prize winning poets, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda. Until the U.S.-backed military coup in 1973 (for a Hollywood version of the event see Jack Lemon in *Missing*), its cinema was the most experimental in Latin America. Prior to the imposition of moralistic right-wing reforms following the coup, Chile was known throughout the world for its liberal political, cultural and social policies.

Chile's geographical variety can make for a rewarding visit in any season, with Santiago and the central zone particularly attractive in the spring and fall. Seasons in Chile are opposite to those in North America and Santiago (its capital) approximately corresponds to the latitude of Los Angeles. A skiing adventure in Chile during our summer is therefore a viable option, with excellent conditions present through October. From a skier's perspective, the Andes mountain range is Chile's ultimate challenge: it catches all the cold fronts the Antarctic system can deliver, and then dumps fine fluffy "champagne"powder on its slopes all winter long.

The country boasts a variety of ski resorts that range in distance from two hours north of Santiago to almost the tip of Patagonia. The best resorts overall are in the vicinity of the capital, with three of the most popular within an hour-and-a-half drive. The largest (and newest) ski area in the Southern Hemisphere is Valle Nevado, which offers 29 runs, 9 lifts, a vertical drop of 810 meters and is adjacent to the impressive 5400 metre peak of El Plomo. Portillo is Chile's best-known resort, and features some of the steepest skiing on the continent; it offers 11 lifts, 23 runs and a vertical drop of 830 meters.

Santiago is definitely worth a visit. A city of grand thoroughfares and plazas, this capital sprawls outwards and "sky-scrapers" upwards, with mountains visible in the distance. It is an impressive sight. Guarding the city from the peak of Cerro San Cristobal (home of its famous zoo) is a statue of the Virgin Mary, part of the Parque Metropolitano recreation area. The city's attractions include the colorful Mercado Central, its historical centre Plaza de Armas, the pedestrian mall of Paseo Ahumada, and the Palacio de La Moneda, site of Allende's last stand (Pinochet bombed it during the 1973 coup, and Allende was killed).

Santiago has plenty of museums, including the beautifully-arranged Pre-Columbian Museum and the Museo of Santiago, which documents the city's present sprawl with dioramas and reconstructions. The Palacio de Bellas Artes is modeled on the Petit Palais in Paris and has a fine collection of European and Chilean art.

Despite purging itself of the Orwellian social order imposed by General Pinochet, social reforms have lagged and, according to its current penal code, homosexual acts are still considered illegal. Parks are regularly patrolled by police who also periodically check identity papers in discos. The Catholic church (which offered shelter and refuge to many opponents during the Pinochet regime) is now imposing its moral position against gays and a more liberal society; however, gay life is increasingly tolerated, especially in the larger cities.

Santiago's most popular discos are Bunker (Bombero Nunez & Av. Peru); Fausto, a large multi-level disco in upscale Providencia (Santa Maria 826); and Naxos, (Av. O'Higgins 776) Santiago's largest disco, with two separate dance floors and a coffee shop. Queen is a local bar in the centre of town (Cnel. Santiago Bueras) busy during Chile's famous "once", a late afternoon coffee and cake break.

Chile's premier beach resort, Vina del Mar, is 130 km north west of Santiago (10 km north the Valparaiso, Chile's principal port and second-largest city). It is known throughout Latin America as the Garden City because of its manicured subtropical vegetation of palm and banana trees and its attractive beaches. A world-famous casino, turn-of-the-century mansions, numerous parks and notable museums are other attractive features of this resort destination. New Soviet is its primary gay venue.

A short distance south from Vina is Valparaiso, a classic sea port occupying a narrow strip of land between the waterfront and the nearby hills. Its convoluted city centre features distinctive cobbled streets and the port is surrounded by cliffs and hilltops accessed by quaint cable-car railways and stairway footpaths. Both cities offer a range of shopping opportunities and are famous for their fresh seafood and 18-year-old Chilean conscript sailors (especially on the weekends).

The agricultural areas of the central zone (noted for its production of fine wine) as well as the beautiful lake district in the south are two areas not to be missed. Lying 3700 km west of the Chilean mainland is Rapa Nui (Easter Island). It is actually more Polynesian than Latin American, though the presence of Pacific Islanders in this isolated part of the world remains much of a mystery. Famous for its colossal statues (moai) sculpted from hard volcanic basalt, it is home to about 2,000 inhabitants. With over 300 moais and related stonework, the island is virtually an open-air national park.

LanChile, Chile's national airline, has teamed up with Canadian airlines to offer convenient and relatively inexpensive flights to this tempting vacation destination. Why not consider a Chile break this summer?

South Park heads north

Throughout time, Death has remained unchallenged in its position as The Great Equalizer. Move over, Grim Reaper, there's a new kid—er, kids—on the block. On August 4th, the Cable ACE award-winning *South Park* crosses the 49th Parallel on a national level, thanks to Canada's own Comedy Network. For the unenlightened, *South Park* is a rustically animated series that follows the antics of a group of potty-mouthed third-grade students in the Rocky Mountain town of South Park, Colorado.

Childish, ham-handed, and vulgar, *South Park* has become one of the biggest pop phenomena to hit since *The Simpsons*. Much like that previous cartoon success story, *South Park* bears the distinction of currently being the hippest vehicle for celebrity voiceovers; stars as diverse as Jay Leno and Natasha Henstridge have lent their vocal talents to the cause. Isaac Hayes is also featured as the oversexed (and very outspoken) Chef of South Park Elementary. The show is also a regular weeknight fixture in many U.S. gay bars and lounges and has developed an overwhelming cult following within our ten percent. Part of the show's charm lies in the fact that nothing—and no one—is sacred. *South Park* is an equal-opportunity offender (it's no wonder that series sound bites occur regularly in Howard Stern's broadcasts) that rarely fails to hit its mark. Episodes run the gamut from "Cartman Gets An Anal Probe" and "Big Gay Al's Big Gay Boat Ride" to "Cartman's Mom Is A Dirty Slut" and "A South Park Christmas" featuring Mr. Hankey the Christmas Poo.

Those familiar with, and in the thrall of, *South Park* will want to stock up on blank videotapes for the Comedy Network marathon; all others should batten down the hatches and prepare for the onslaught. Uncensored episodes will air on each weeknight on the Comedy Network for thirteen nights, commencing August 4. The series slips into its regular Friday slot following *Larry Sanders* at 9:30 pm (ET/PT) on August 21st.

Time to pig out again

IN THE NEWS

Start saving those loonies, toonies and quarters: it's time once again for the annual Small Change... Big Changes Campaign. This year's campaign launch will take place 8:00 pm, Monday, August 17th at the Capital Bar & Grill in Gulf Canada Square downtown.

For the fifth consecutive year, Small Change... Big Changes seeks to raise money in support of programs for individuals and their families affected by HIV and AIDS. Over $300,000 has been raised over the years, all going to support worthwhile programs through the Southern Alberta HIV Clinic and the Calgary Health Trust.

Once again, the event will be based on a piggy bank theme and the banks will available at the launch party for a price of $10 each. Proud piggy parents will then have two months to cram as many loonies, toonies and quarters into the pigs. The piggy banks will serve as a ticket to what has become a mainstay of

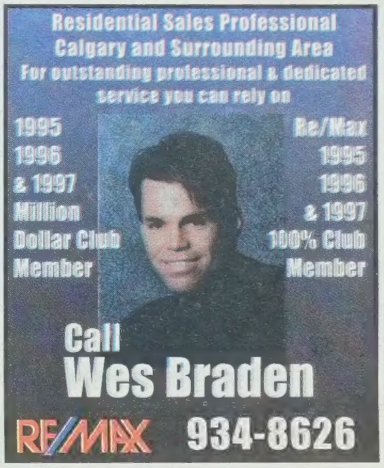
the fundraising community—and a very popular event—the Pig Gala, to be held Saturday, October 17th.

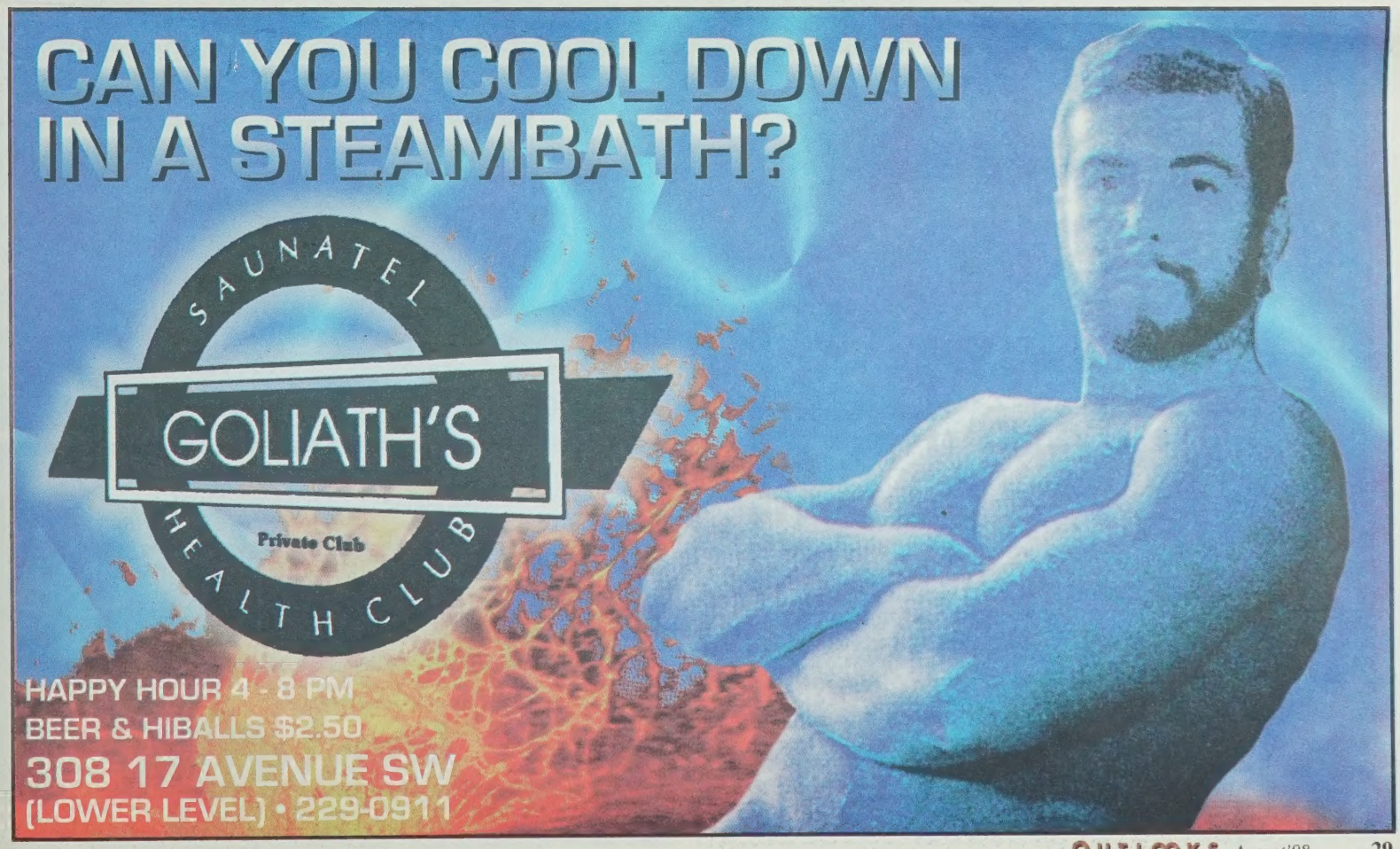
Founded five years ago by Lorne McRae, this event was deliberately designed to be accessible to all who wished to participate. A nominal fee of $10.00 provides a keepsake memento (fast becoming collector's items of the evening) and subsequent coin contributions into the piggy over a two month period seem almost painless. Since its inception, Small Change... Big Changes has been entirely volunteer-driven, keeping expenses at a minimum and maximizing the return to the beneficiaries of the event. Less than 15% of the total funds raised go to supporting the cost of the campaign, with the largest single cost being the creation of the piggy banks themselves.

Over the years, funds raised through this project have supported various programs including medical equipment purchase, the establishment of a research fund, and the purchase of equipment designed to allow patients suffering with HIV and AIDS to become more mobile.

The Pig Gala incorporates a diverse evening of food, drink and entertainment, along with a silent auction of designer pig paraphernalia. So mark your calendars for both August 17th and October 17th, and start plugging those piggies!

—Terry Kellam





Dear Freddy...

Dear Freddy,

I'm really upset and I don't know where to turn. A few weeks ago I went to the 'tubs' for the first time. I fooled around with this really cute guy that seemed really nice and now I'm noticing a really gross discharge when I pee and it really smells and hurts a bit. I'm so embarrassed to tell anyone because I'm usually really sensitive about getting physical and don't sleep around at all. Any idea what this is or what I can do?

Red In The Face &
Somewhere Else

Really?

My God, Red, what a question...

Eeeww! I'm going to woof my dog cookies. What is it you people think I do all day—snuffle around nasty, smelly, sick old penises? How should I know what's wrong with you? Honestly... get thee to a nunnery or something... at least the free clinic. Ugh.

P.S.: Please don't let's ever revisit this sort of thing again.

—Freddy

Dear Freddy,

I have a problem. I'm experiencing difficulties in the workplace because of my sexual orientation—and I'm straight. You see, where I work I'm the *only* straight guy. It's not like they hit on me or anything, but my co-workers are always calling me "girlie" and "darling", and when my girlfriend calls me at work they make kissy-kissy noises in the background. Maybe most appalling are the comments they make about the female body—as if some guy's sweaty, hairy butt could be more appetizing! Please, Fred, how can I make them treat my sexuality with a little more respect? Should I spray them with Brüt?

Straight Up in Calgary

You poor, poor thing—I hope you understand that I feel for you with every fibre of my being. It is a sad reality that a large segment of society (up to 90%, if we are to believe the propaganda) is afflicted in the same way as you. I propose you try and "play along" with their reindeer games—at least while at work—so as not to appear some sort of freak. Perhaps try a lisp—they're fun! Hang in there, girlie.

Hope this helps,
Freddy.

P.S.: What is this 'sweaty hairy' business you're on about—sounds terribly *heterosexual* to me.

Yours in hygiene,
—F.

Life's a beach, darlings!

Write to me, dears!

All letters become the property of *Outlooks* and are subject to editing.
Write to: Dear Freddy, c/o Outlooks, Box 439, Suite 100,
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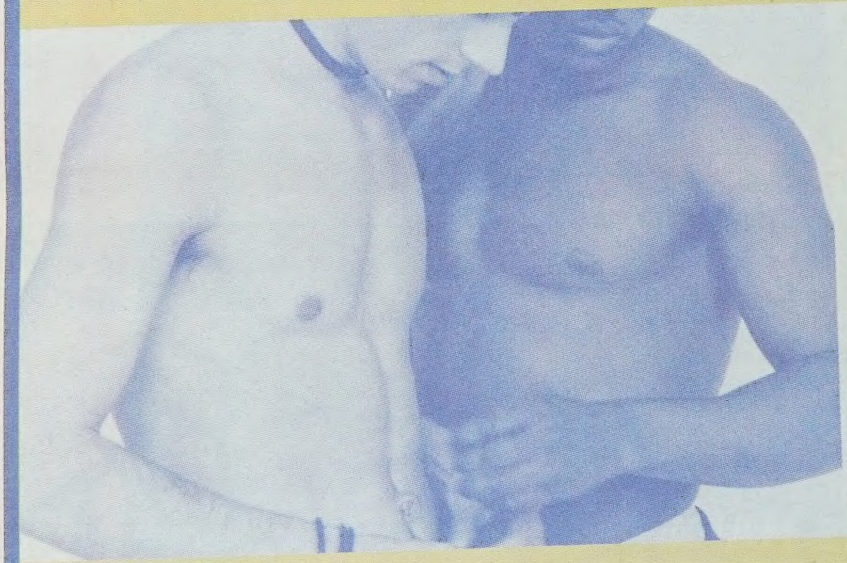

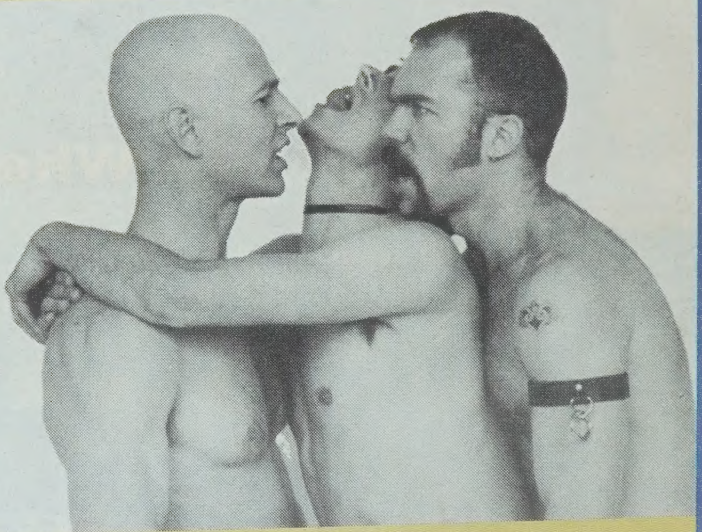

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